



Media Contact:
Veronica Villegas
Communications Officer
817-392-6178 (office)
Veronica.Villegas@FortWorthTexas.gov

PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
June 24, 2015

City of Fort Worth Human Relations Commission receives *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History* grant

FORT WORTH — The City of Fort Worth Human Relations Commission (HRC) has been selected to receive a competitive *Latino Americans: 500 Years of History* grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and the American Library Association (ALA).

As one of 203 grant recipients selected from across the country, the HRC will receive a cash grant \$10,000 to hold public programming — such as public film screenings, discussion groups, oral history initiatives, local history exhibitions, multi-media projects or performances — about Latino history and culture.

The HRC will also receive the six-part, NEH-supported documentary film *Latino Americans*, created for PBS in 2013 by the WETA public television station. The award-winning series chronicles the history of Latinos in the United States from the 16th century to present day. (Learn more about the series at www.pbs.org/latino-americans/en/.)

Planned programs will include free screening events of each of the six parts of the *Latino Americans* documentary; *¡Viva Mi Historia!*, a series of oral history collection days that will be used to help identify documents that will help create a *Latino American Archives* at the Fort Worth Library; and an interactive, multi-media exhibit, *Mujeres Poderosas: The Legacy of Strong Latinas in Fort Worth*. Program event partners include the Fort Worth Library, Texas Christian University's Latino Studies Program and Civil Rights in Black and Brown Oral History Project, Fort Worth Museum of Science and History, Artes de la Rosa and the Modern Art Museum of Fort Worth. Support for the program has also been pledged from a number of community organizations, including: KERA, FWISD, Hispanic Women's Network of Tarrant County and MANA de North Texas.

“Latino Americans are the country’s largest minority group, with more than 50 million people, and still many people are unaware of their rich and varied history and culture,” said Damon Blakeley, Chairman of the Human Relations Commission. “I’m thrilled that the Fort Worth Human Relations Unit has this opportunity to explore this topic in our

community. Understanding the history and culture of the diversity that exists in our city, helps us to be a richer, stronger, more cohesive community.”

For a schedule of events, visit <http://fortworthtexas.gov/la500/>. You can also call the HRC at 817-392-7525 and an electronic copy of the Latino American Event Dates has also been attached separately.

Latino Americans: 500 Years of History is part of an NEH initiative, The Common Good: The Humanities in the Public Square. Grantees represent 42 states and the District of Columbia, and include 78 public libraries, 68 college/university libraries and organizations, 19 community college libraries, 10 state humanities councils, 12 museums and a range of other nonprofit organizations. [View a full list of the recipients.](#)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

About the Fort Worth Human Relations Commission

The HRC was created by city council ordinance in 1967 to champion anti-discrimination efforts in Fort Worth and facilitate harmonious relationships among Fort Worth’s diverse communities. Its members are appointed by the city council and it is supported by the City of Fort Worth Human Relations Unit (HRU) which provides information and services related to basic human rights, including enforcement of the city’s anti-discrimination ordinance and federal housing, employment and accommodation laws. The HRU and the HRC strive to create a welcoming community for all people by providing resources and outreach efforts that promote basic human rights.

About the National Endowment for the Humanities

Created in 1965 as an independent federal agency, the National Endowment for the Humanities supports research and learning in history, literature, philosophy and other areas of the humanities by funding selected, peer-reviewed proposals from around the nation. Additional information about the National Endowment for the Humanities and its grant programs is available at www.neh.gov.

About the American Library Association

The American Library Association is the oldest and largest library association in the world, with approximately 58,000 members in academic, public, school, government and special libraries. The mission of the American Library Association is to provide leadership for the development, promotion and improvement of library and information services and the profession of librarianship in order to enhance learning and ensure access to information for all.