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Latino Leaders Welcome Exhibit on Art of the Indigenous Women of Mexico and Central America

“Huipiles: A Celebration” to open July 20 at Mexican Cultural Institute

Washington, DC. – The Board of Directors of The Latino Coalition (TLC) and the Mexicans and Americans Thinking Together Foundation (MATT) announced today they will help host one of the most exciting artistic programs since the opening of the Smithsonian Latino Center 10 years ago: **“Huipiles: a Celebration”**. The program tells the story of the intricate and symbolic indigenous textiles of Mesoamerica, and the U.S. Latinas who embrace, wear and collect them.

The exhibit is presented under the auspices of the **Smithsonian Latino Center**. **Huipiles** features paintings by Kathy Sosa, photographs by Liz Garza Williams, huipil decorative furniture by Veronica Prida, and exquisite examples of huipil garments.

“This is the art of the indigenous women of Mexico and Central America,” said TLC President Robert G. Deposada. “Many times, the women who make the huipiles do everything from spin the thread to weave and embroider the fabric. It takes up to six months to make one. Ceremonial garments are a statement of identity and pride. Each village has their own design and colors to show who they are and where they come from. It’s a symbol to show their pride in culture and heritage. And we are proud to be part of this important exhibit.”

“Huipiles: a Celebration” opens July 20 at the Mexican Cultural Institute in Washington DC and runs through August 20. September 19, **“Huipiles: a Celebration”** opens at the Smithsonian Museo Alameda in San Antonio, Texas, where it will run through January 20, 2008

“As we celebrate the 100th anniversary of **Frida Kahlo’s** birth, we should recall that she always wore huipiles -- mostly as a political statement,” said MATT Foundation COO Aracely García-Granados. “She wore these fabrics to highlight who she was. She did it to highlight she was as proud of her indigenous roots as she was of her European ones at a time when no European descendent or middle or upper income individuals wore these fabrics because they were what servants wore. Now a century later, everyone recognizes the beauty, creativity and artwork of the huipiles.”

For more information on **“Huipiles: a Celebration”**, visit our website at www.TheLatinoCoalition.com or view the Exhibit brochure by clicking on [“Huipiles: A Celebration”](#).

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