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CITY OF SAN FERNANDO MARIACHI MASTER APPRENTICE PROGRAM (MMAP) AWARDED CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL "ARTISTS IN SCHOOLS – EXTENSION" GRANT

State funds support after school and summer arts education programming for local San Fernando students

San Fernando, CA – The California Arts Council announced its plans to award $18,000 to City of San Fernando Mariachi Master Apprentice Program as part of its *Artists in Schools - Extension* program.

As an offshoot of the Council's signature arts education grant program, one of the agency's longest running, the new *Artists in Schools - Extension* grant supports arts education programs for Pre-K-12 students that operate after school and during the summer, on school sites, in artistic venues, and in community settings. The intention of this program is to offer young people sequential, hands-on training in artistic disciplines, including dance, literary arts, media arts, music, theatre, and visual arts that align to National Core Arts, California Visual and Performing Arts, Common Core, and/or Expanded Learning Standards of education.

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MMAP specifically targets youth ages 8-18 with beginning - advanced skills as no similar programs exist in our community. The City's population is 95% Latino with strong ties to their cultural heritage. Thus, there is a large pool of youth who have basic mariachi musician skills, but lack the technique and opportunity to maximize their potential as practitioners of this music genre. MMAP provides the highest quality instruction, so these students can realize their potential. Young musicians are exposed to the many particularities of mariachi music, which includes, but is not limited to: 1) instrumental and vocal technique, 2) basic musicianship, 3) stylistic interpretation, 4) social, cultural and historical context, and 5) performance etiquette. MMAP provides a culturally-relevant educational experience for underserved youth that instills an empowering sense of self-confidence, pride, and identity while providing an outlet for artistic and cultural expression. The project continues to serve as a source for students to acquire, develop, and apply the skill sets required for success in the academic arena.

Students are instructed on traditional mariachi instruments: violins, guitars, guitarrones, vihuelas, trumpets, and folk harp. The curriculum focuses on traditional and popular mariachi music forms: sones, rancheras, huapangos, boleros, and polkas. The program consists of two, 16-week sessions at Las Palmas Park and San Fernando Middle School. After school instruction includes a minimum of three hours per week consisting of an average of 50 students and four instructors. Separate workshops for sectionals, master classes, and full ensemble are scheduled on weekends, vacations, and after school.

"We are honored and privileged to receive this grant in order to be able to provide exciting arts programs to the young people in San Fernando."

---Virginia Diediker, Cultural Arts Supervisor, City of San Fernando

The San Fernando Mariachi Master Apprentice Program is one of 136 grantees chosen for this highly competitive program, which received applications from 168 organizations statewide. The news of San Fernando Mariachi Master Apprentice Program's grant was featured as part of a larger announcement from the California Arts Council, which may be viewed on-line at http://tiny.cc/CAC-G17.

"We know the benefits of arts education—to improve test performance, reduce dropout rates and increase participation in higher learning," said Donn K. Harris, California Arts Council Chair. "With support from the California Arts Council, San Fernando Mariachi Master Apprentice Program will connect Grammy Award winning musicians with underserved youth in an afterschool learning experience focusing on beginner-advanced mariachi folk instrument instruction, arrangement and performance skills. Targeting grades 6 through 12, the 32 week program incorporates artistic and historical concepts to preserve traditional mariachi music. The curriculum instills self-confidence, pride and positive identity. Through Artists in Schools – Extension, MMAP allows students real-life arts immersion beyond the standard school day. Opportunities like this help support the growth and success of California's students by fostering creativity, innovation, and collaboration through the arts."

To view a complete listing of all Artists in Schools - Extension grantees, visit: http://arts.ca.gov/programs/files/CAC_AIS_Extension_Grantees_2016-17_FINAL.pdf.

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