



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

## Commission for Arts and Culture

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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CONTACT: Victoria L. Hamilton  
Executive Director  
(619) 533-3055

### **A PUBLIC ART DEDICATION EVENT WILL TAKE PLACE AT THE CESAR E. CHAVEZ/25<sup>TH</sup> & COMMERCIAL TROLLEY STATION THURSDAY, MARCH 23, 2006 AT NOON**

San Diego, CA... A ceremony to dedicate a new public artwork titled "*Achievement / Progress / Community: In the Spirit of Cesar E. Chavez*." will be held at the Cesar E. Chavez/25<sup>th</sup> & Commercial Trolley Station (Orange Line), located at the intersection of 25<sup>th</sup> Street, Commercial Street, and Cesar E. Chavez Parkway in San Diego, on Thursday, March 23, 2006, at noon. Local artist Mario Lara and his teammates John Hiemstra, Louise Torio, Todd McKerrow, Pita Ruiz, and Ruben Seja were awarded the commission to create this artwork through a competitive process administered by the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture (Commission) in collaboration with Partners for Livable Places San Diego. The artwork is funded in part by the National Endowment for the Arts and features an 18-foot tall metal eagle sculpture with directional signs to local neighborhood landmarks, metal panels with a quote from Cesar E. Chavez, and colorful bench mosaics. Other funding contributors include the Commission, Council District 8, Partners for Livable Places San Diego, and the Central Commercial District Revitalization Corporation.

This artwork is a result of planning workshops that were conducted by the Commission in 2002 during the development of the *Public Art Master Plan* (PAMP) adopted by the Mayor and City Council in 2004. The integration of public art into an existing trolley station that was scheduled for an upgrade by the Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) and the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) was a key goal of the project. Councilmember Ben Hueso, the Sherman Heights Neighborhood Cultural Council, and

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the communities of Logan Heights and Sherman Heights join the Commission in inviting civic and community leaders, as well as the public, to take part in the dedication.

*Achievement/Progress/Community: In the Spirit of Cesar E. Chavez* is designed to honor the memory and spirit of humanitarian and community leader Cesar E. Chavez (1927-1993), who was a civil rights advocate, labor leader, a crusader for nonviolent social change, and an environmentalist. Senator Robert F. Kennedy said that Cesar E. Chavez was “one of the heroic figures of our time.”

The mission of the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture is to vitalize the community by integrating arts and culture into community life, supporting the region’s cultural assets, and showcasing San Diego as an international cultural destination. Further information about the Commission for Arts and Culture can be accessed at:

[www.sandiego.gov](http://www.sandiego.gov)

After the dedication, light refreshments will be served. All interested media parties are encouraged to RSVP no later than March 21, 2006, to Louise Torio at SANDAG at 619-699-1923.