



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
Monday, January 5, 2009

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**CITY OF SAN DIEGO COMPLETES CONSERVATION WORK ON THE PUBLIC ARTWORK
JOURNEY TO AZTLÁN BY THE ARTISTS EINAR AND JAMEX DE LA TORRE**

San Diego, CA— The City of San Diego through the Commission for Arts and Culture (Commission) recently completed the conservation of a local City-owned mural titled *Journey to Aztlán*. Created by contemporary Mexican American artists Einar and Jamex de la Torre, the mural is located on the north and south retaining walls along Harbor Drive in front of the Convention Center in downtown San Diego.

In 2000, the de la Torres completed the mural which pictorially illustrates a surreal dreamscape composed of six colors, studded with mirrored glass masks adapted from the enigmatic grinning and laughing masks of the Pre-Columbian Veracruz period.

The Commission contracted with ConservArt Associates, Inc. and the artists to restore and stabilize the mural. The main objective of the treatment was to prevent further deterioration of the mural and achieve an overall integrated visual restoration. "After stabilization and cleaning, the mural is more radiant and one can see details, which were unrevealed before," said Victoria L. Hamilton, Executive Director of the Commission.

"We are so grateful to the Commission and National Endowment for the Arts for supporting this project," said Jamex de la Torre. "We will now be able to give even more people living and traveling through San Diego the chance to view our work."

The Commission vitalizes the San Diego community by supporting the region's cultural assets, integrating arts and culture into community life and showcasing San Diego as an international tourist destination. Further information about the Commission can be accessed at: www.sandiego.gov/arts-culture.

The NEA is a public agency dedicated to supporting excellence in the arts, both new and established; bringing the arts to all Americans; and providing leadership in arts education. Further information about the NEA can be accessed at: www.nea.gov. This project is supported in part by an award from the NEA, which believes that a great nation deserves great art.



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