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Featured Artists and Authors at MANA, A National Latina Organization's Annual Conference May 24-26, 2007 in Santa Fe, NM

MANA, A National Latina Organization, with headquarters in Washington, DC, twenty one Chapters nationwide and four affiliates across the nation, will hold their Annual Training Conference on Latina Health and Wealth Issues from May 24-26 at the College of Santa Fe and the Lodge at Santa Fe. Latinas from all over the country will converge for two days of workshops and leadership training. Attendees will have the opportunity to hear dynamic speakers and experience the works of talented local and internationally acclaimed Latina artists.



This year MANA will feature local Latina artist Tamara Lopez's painting, "Tierra Madre" (Mother Earth), on the conference poster and program. Her watercolor painting represents the link between the female spirit, life, and the environment around us. Lopez has been thrilled to work with MANA in developing the painting featuring colors inspired by a Santa Fe sunset. Ms. Lopez is the Education Technology Coordinator for the Education Department at Northern New

Mexico College and will receive her master's degree in education from the New Mexico State University. Her family settled in Truchas, New Mexico in 1757. Lopez owns the Galleria de Amor with her sister in Truchas whose mission is to exhibit works from local artists and to preserve their culture and tradition.

"This conference not only showcases successful Latina artists, writers, teachers, and speakers, it demonstrates the Latina CAN and WILL DO attitude and actions. By advancing educational achievement, MANA helps contribute to community development across the country," said MANA CEO and President Alma Morales Riojas.

Painter Laura López Cano has been a poster and cover artist for numerous esteemed organizations, a "best of show" recipient in several exhibitions, and was named 2002 YWCA Woman of the Year in the art category. Cano has a BFA from University of Texas, El Paso and has continued her studies in fashion illustration at Stephens College in Columbia, MO, and teaches college-level and private art classes in the United States and in Mexico.

Yolanda Valdés-Rementería is an accomplished artist and instructor based in Portland Oregon. Her works have been exhibited at the Oregon State Fair and the State Capital in Salem, Oregon and are placed in permanent exhibition at the Oregon State University. She received her Bachelor of Arts from the Portland State University and studied at the Instituto de Cooperación Iberoamericana and Museo del Prado in Madrid, Spain as well as

Clackamas Community College and Escuela Normal Nueva Galicia School of Education in Guadalajara, Mexico. Valdés-Rementería is a native of Esenada, Baja California, Mexico.

Keynoting the breakfast on Friday, May 25th will be Juana Bordas, founder of the Mestiza Leadership Institute in Boulder, Co. and founding President and CEO of the National Hispana Leadership Institute. Bordas has dedicated her professional life to the creation of a network of Latinos throughout corporate America. She is the author of *Salsa, Soul, and Spirit: Leadership for a Multicultural Age*. Bordas also tours throughout the country as a motivational speaker gaining many accolades including induction to the Colorado Women's Hall of Fame in 1997.

Dr. Carmen Tafolla will be the keynote speaker at the luncheon on Friday, May 25th. Dr. Tafolla is the author of five books of poetry, one volume of non-fiction, seven screenplays, and numerous short stories, articles and children's works. Her book of poetry, *Sonnets to Human Beings*, received the First Prize in the Poetry Division of the UCI National Literary Competition. She has most recently been awarded the Art of Peace Award by the President's Peace Commission of St. Mary's University for "writing which contributes to peace, justice and human understanding."

Julia Hubbel, professional speaker, seminar leader and prize-winning journalist who specializes in creating lasting, collaborative relationships will be the breakfast keynote speaker on Saturday, May 26th. Hubbel is the author of *The Art of Principled Networking: When You Schmooze, You Lose*. Julia is a fully disabled, decorated Vietnam Era veteran who served as a journalist and television producer-director in the Army, and as Chief of Military Protocol for the Jimmy Carter Presidential Inaugural in 1977.

Alisa Valdes-Rodriguez has been named a Woman of the Year by *Latina*, one of the 100 most influential Hispanics by *Hispanic Business* magazine and one of the 25 most influential Hispanics by *Time* magazine. Valdes-Rodriguez holds a master's degree in journalism from Columbia University and was a journalist with the *Boston Globe* and *LA Times*. She published her first novel, *The Dirty Girls Social Club* in 2001 and has gone on to publish other works including *Make Him Look Good* in 2007, *Haters* in 2006 and *Playing with Boys* in 2005. She is a native of Albuquerque, New Mexico and will be honored at the MANA Red Dress Fashion Show on Friday, May 25th.

MANA is pleased to recognize State Farm Insurance Companies, Southwest Airlines, and Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. for their unyielding commitment to Latina empowerment. For more information on the conference or to register, please visit www.hermana.org or call at 202-833-0060.

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About MANA: MANA, A National Latina Organization, is a nonprofit advocacy organization headquartered in Washington, DC. With chapters across the country, it is the oldest national Latina membership organization in the United States. MANA, whose mission is to empower Latinas through leadership development, community service, and advocacy, envisions a national community of informed Latina activists working to improve the quality of life for all Hispanics. MANA also has the only national Latina's mentoring program for girls 11 to 17, "HERMANITAS®" which brings over 100 girls each year to a Washington, DC leadership institute that includes a briefing at the White House and a visit to the girls' Congressional representatives.