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Many Ways to Celebrate Hispanic Contributions and Culture during St. Louis Hispanic Heritage Month Includes Spanish-language broadcast of Cardinals Game, Sept. 30

(September 14, 2016) ST. LOUIS—The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and the St. Louis Mosaic Project have compiled a calendar of local activities and events that will take place between September 15 and October 15 to celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month in St. Louis.

Each year, Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates the histories, cultures and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean and Central and South America. September 15 marks the anniversary of independence for Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras and Nicaragua. In addition, Mexico and Chile celebrate their independence days on September 16 and 18, respectively, and Columbus Day, or Día de la Raza, is October 12.

"As the Hispanic population and Hispanic owned-businesses in St. Louis have grown, so too has the activity and attention surrounding Hispanic Heritage Month," said Karlos Ramirez, CEO of the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce (HCC) of Metropolitan St. Louis.

"The Latino population is the fastest growing family demographic group in the nation and in St. Louis, and we are proud to help create awareness and connections to services, programs and activities that can facilitate growth and success," said Betsy Cohen, Executive Director, St. Louis Mosaic Project.

An example of one such program facilitated by Mosaic and the HCC, is a Spanish-language version of the Entrepreneurs Roadmap, produced by the <u>BALSA Foundation</u>. The free document includes Spanish-speaking contacts and resources for anyone interested in starting a business, including information about financing options and business mentors. Mosaic also has created a Latino logo based on the region's branding (Explore St. Louis) and will distribute buttons featuring the logo throughout the community (image attached).

In addition, the Hispanic Chamber kicks off the month's celebrations with a Business After Hours celebration featuring a cultural dance performance, art and food on September 15 from 6-8 pm at St. Cecilia, 906 Eichelberger. Other events include:

- September 15 8-9 am, <u>International Institute</u> Bagels & Coffee: Information on new Immigrant Data for Missouri.
- September 18 11 am 10 pm <u>Viva Mexico Festival</u> by Red Latina: a celebration of Mexican Independence Day with authentic food, Folkloric Dances and Live Bands.
- September 19 Hispanic Chamber 10th Annual Golf Tournament (sold out)
- September 21 6:30 pm, The Rock Road Library Talk on Mexican Heritage in St. Louis
- September 23, 24, 25 <u>Greater St. Louis Hispanic Festival</u> by Hispanic Festival Inc.: largest Hispanic celebration in the St. Louis area featuring over 70 booths and the Los Ninos Kids Corner with traditional Hispanic games.
- September 24 9 am 4 pm, <u>Latinos en Axion</u>, New American Alliance: a collaboration of non-profit organizations connecting foreign-born newcomers with resources and services for successful integration.
- September 25 12:30 6 pm, <u>Argentine Society 25th anniversary</u>
- September 30 7:30 pm, St. Louis Cardinals Fiesta Cardenales pre-game celebration. Includes <u>KeBuena</u> Radio's Spanish-language broadcast of Cardinals game. After game party at Ballpark Village with DJ Fonzo and specialty drinks.
- Oct. 1 Thibaut Garcia performance, St. Louis Classical Guitar Society

The St. Louis Mosaic Project, an initiative of the World Trade Center and the St. Louis Economic Development Partnership, encourages regional prosperity through Immigration and Innovation. The Hispanic Chamber of Commerce is a private non-profit corporation founded in 1982 by a group of Hispanic businesspersons interested in increasing opportunities for Hispanic business owners, thereby improving the economic development of the St. Louis region. For more information about Hispanic Heritage Month events, visit Mosaic and the HCC.