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“Que Pasa Fest 2022 Dates, Line-Up and Award Recipients”

Metairie, LA-- Cervantes Fundación Hispanoamericana de Arte (Cervantes Hispanic-American Arts Foundation) is proud to announce that **Que Pasa Fest 2022** is scheduled for the weekend of Saturday, October 8 and Sunday, October 9 from 11am to 9pm both days, at Lafreniere Park in Metairie. Celebrating Hispanic Heritage, the **FREE** admission festival will feature over 16 food booths from different Latin American countries, community outreach and business booths offering their services and products, a children’s play area as well live performances by local and international acts. This year, Que Pasa Fest will also pay homage to the late media personality, Jorge Vides, by presenting “The Jorge Vides Cup,” a friendly soccer game in conjunction with Jambalaya News, on Sunday, October 9. Admission to this will also be free. No outside food or beverages will be allowed at the fest and game, but chairs and blankets are welcomed.

Que Pasa Fest’s musical line-up this year will include: Anthony- Ex Member of La Makina, La Banda Blanca, La Tran-K Band, Grupo Recuerdos, Rumba Buena, La People, Javier Olondo & AsheSon, Los Guiros, Jaken, Tierra Linda, Deco & Dova, and Madison Guzman.

The **Guillermo De Bango Excellence in the Arts Award** recipient this year is Ariana Hall, and the winner of the **Oscar Marcia Music Award** is Jose “Pepe” Vazquez.

Ariana Hall, who grew up in the San Francisco Bay Area and moved to New Orleans over 30 years ago, is being honored for her work as the Co-Founder and Executive Director of CubaNOLA Arts Collective, a New Orleans based non-profit arts organization, created in 1999, that explores the performance cultures of Cuba, New Orleans, the Caribbean, and Latin America. Hall was moved by the deep similarities and hyper-creativity of New Orleans and Cuba and established the CubaNOLA Arts Collective to use the power of performance, festivity, and art to promote cultural wellness and equity. She graduated from Tulane University in Computer Science and Theoretical Linguistics and went on to work in Silicon Valley, WWOZ 90.7 FM, the

Newcomb Art Museum of Tulane University and as a small business owner. Hall currently serves as the Operations Manager at the Joan Mitchell Center. Her community activism is what keeps her going and her deep and ongoing relationships with pioneering Cuban and New Orleans artists is what makes CubaNOLA so unique, special and such an important organization in our city.

Jose "Pepe" Vazquez. Originally from Pinar del Rio, Cuba, Vazquez immigrated to the United States in 1969, choosing New Orleans as home. He became immersed in the local music scene in 1983, when he formed and managed the group "Ritmo Caribeño," until 2005. The popular group, who played many genres but was known for playing great salsa, won many awards throughout the years. They played hundreds of parties, events, festivals and even traveled to France, representing New Orleans in a festival. Like Oscar Marcia, Jose "Pepe" Vazquez, exemplified throughout those years, the dedication and love for music and support to fellow musicians. Vazquez no longer is involved in the music scene but relishes many good memories from those 22 years in the business. He is retired and lives on the North Shore with his wife of 56 years, Adelina, and enjoys spending time with his children and grandchildren.

The Guillermo De Bango Excellence in the Arts Award is named for the founder of Cervantes Fundación Hispanoamericana de Arte who believed in promoting the rich Hispanic culture throughout the state of Louisiana and the Oscar Marcia Music Award is named for the Honduran musician that had a major impact in the local Latin music scene for many decades before his passing a few years ago.

Ariana Hall and Jose "Pepe" Vazquez will be honored by the members of Cervantes, on Tuesday, October 4, at 7pm at Mid-City Lanes Rock n Bowl. Live entertainment will be provided by Grupo Sensacion. The event is open to the public for a \$10 cover charge at the door.

National Hispanic Heritage Month is the period from September 15 to October 15 in the United States, when people recognize the contributions of Hispanic and Latino Americans to the United States and celebrate the group's heritage and culture.

For more information, vendor, and sponsorship opportunities, please contact Eva Hurst at 504.812.7236 or Brenda Melara 504.615.9070. All sponsorships are considered donations and are tax-deductible. You can also visit Que Pasa Fest at www.quepasafest.org and on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

More about the presenters:

Cervantes Fundación Hispanoamericana de Arte was created in 1982 as a non-profit 501 (c) (3) organization, with the mission to promote modern and classical Hispanic arts and cultural traditions. These include music, dance, literature, fine arts, and culinary arts, among others. Cervantes has had a major impact in the Hispanic community and the Louisiana community in

general. The organization was named after Miguel de Cervantes, a Spanish novelist, poet, and playwright, who lived during the 16th century.

Hispanic Flavor Productions was created in 2007. The goal is to enhance and enrich the Hispanic culture and traditions by creating diverse events such as festivals, classical music concerts, art exhibits, music conferences, among other events. Some past and present productions by Hispanic Flavor include —Que Pasa New Orleans TV show, Buena Vista Social at Maison, Que Pasa Nights, Classical music concerts, Christmas of Hope, Mardi Gras Mambo and the New Orleans International Guitar Festival. A bilingual newspaper, Que Pasa, was also launched in 2017.

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