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Tijuana's 1st Annual GLBT Festival to Be Held June 19–20, 2010

TIJUANA, Baja Calif. — From 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. on June 19 and 20, 2010, three square blocks of downtown Tijuana will be transformed into a haven of queer culture and togetherness, as over 10,000 members of the GLBT (Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender) community are expected to take part in Tijuana's first-ever Gay Pride Festival, which will feature not only art, food, and entertainment, but also social services, seminars, and various other educational opportunities. Festival admission is free for all attendees.

With a theme of "Inclusión en Revolución" ("Inclusion in/for Revolution"), the inaugural TJ Gay Pride Festival will help build, educate, and empower the GLBT community in Tijuana and North Baja California by bringing its members together en masse to a forum wherein they can experience one another in a loving, safe, supportive, and fun atmosphere while increasing their awareness of GLBT social, legal, and economic issues by attending various conferences and workshops or simply availing themselves of social services that will be provided on-site. The net result will be a massive, two-day street party with a purpose.

The festival's outdoor component will be divided into three zones: a food and beverage court at Plaza Santa Cecilia featuring offerings from a wide variety of restaurants and chefs, plus a stage for live entertainment; dozens of bands, DJs, and dancing on the Corona Stage at Revolución Ave. and 2nd St.; and a gamut of culture stations and social services—along with two additional performance stages—on Puente México Ave. in front of the Museo de Cera (Wax Museum).

Additionally, numerous conferences, workshops, and seminars will be held inside the Municipal Institute of Arts and Culture (IMAC). Among the topics to be covered: The Rights of the Transgendered; Penalties for Discrimination Against GLBT Individuals; Homosexuality from the Perspective of the Social Sciences; Lesbian Mothers; The Case of the English Mathematician Alan Turing; and Sexual Diversity: Nondiscrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Sexual Identity.

"This groundbreaking event is poised to permanently change the landscape of GLBT life in Tijuana," says Sean Zullo, executive director of Choices Baja, the festival's organizer. "Raising the profile of the GLBT community can be leveraged into raising the quality of life for the entire population of Tijuana and Baja California. In addition, staging such a bi-national event is an opportunity to bridge broken relationships between the Tijuana-San Diego communities, as well as generally improving US-Mexico relations."

Tijuana's 1st Annual GLBT Festival is made possible by sponsorship from governmental, corporate, and non-profit social service organizations. For more information, visit www.choicesbaja.com/tjpride.

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