

May 21, 2010  
For immediate release  
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**Charlotte Street Foundation's Urban Culture Project, the Guild of Latino Fine Arts (Azteca de Greater Kansas City), and Mattie Rhodes Art Gallery present**

**VIVA LA VIDA**  
***A Celebration of Life and Community***

**La Esquina / 1000 West 25th Street KCMO 64108**

**OPENING RECEPTION: FRIDAY, JUNE 4, 6-10PM**  
**Exhibition Hours: THURSDAYS + SATURDAYS, 12-5PM**  
**On view JUNE 4-JULY 10, 2010**

**Additional events in conjunction with the exhibition:**

**June 18, 7pm: Chicano Film Night, with feature film *La Vida Loca***  
Evening includes "Best Dressed Chola Contest." \$5 donation covers one drink and all you can eat popcorn. Other snacks and drinks will also be available.

**June 30, 5:30: *Viva la Vida* Artist + Curator Talk**

Charlotte Street Foundation's Urban Culture Project, the Guild of Latino Fine Arts (Azteca de Greater Kansas City), and Mattie Rhodes Art Gallery are coming together to celebrate life and community through art. All three organizations involved in this exhibit have a history of promoting artists and of assisting the betterment of individual lives through art, which in turn enlivens the community.

The exhibition is curated by Jenny Mendez, Director of Mattie Rhodes Art Gallery and Chairperson of the Guild of Latino Fine Arts, Azteca de Grater Kansas City. It features many dozens of artworks of far-

ranging media, including paintings, drawings, sculptures, ceramics, photographs, textile-based and mixed media pieces, all of which represent responses to and interpretations of the exhibition's title - "Viva La Vida: A Celebration of Life & Community." Many works reflect participating artists' connections to the Latino community in Kansas City and elsewhere.

Featured artists include Rodolfo Marron, Emiliano Zapata, Juan Moya, Maria Vasquez Boyd, Jessica Manco, John Hernandez, Miriam Feingold, Israel Garcia, Mary Agnes Rodriguez, Adolfo Martinez, Jeremy McConnell, Alisha Gambino, Arzie Umali, Sonnie Ruffin, Jason Sierra, Henry Montes, Emmanuel Hernandez, Mauricio Zuniga, Thomas Woodward, Dominic Murillo, Robert Tapley Bustamante, Eric Boleware, and many others.

**AZTECA de Greater Kansas City** is an all-volunteer non-for-profit organization that is committed to furthering the advancement of Latino Arts and Artists throughout the greater Kansas City Area. AZTECA de Greater Kansas City's mission is to share the multi-Latino cultures and traditions through the arts, cultural events and activities. Visit [www.aztecadegkc.org](http://www.aztecadegkc.org) for more information.

**Mattie Rhodes Art Gallery** was established in 1999 to provide emerging and established Latino artists a venue in which to display their art work, as well as a place for the community to celebrate and learn about Latino culture through visual arts. Mattie Rhodes Art Gallery invites all artists to exhibit works that explore themes important to the Latino culture, strives to educate the public about the importance of Latinos visual arts, and brings together many cultures within our community. Visit [www.mattierhodes.org](http://www.mattierhodes.org) for more information.

**Urban Culture Project** is an initiative of the Charlotte Street Foundation, an organization dedicated to making Kansas City a place where artists and art thrive. Urban Culture Project creates new opportunities for artists of all disciplines and contributes to urban revitalization by transforming spaces in downtown Kansas City into new venues for multi-disciplinary contemporary arts programming. For more information, visit [www.charlottestreet.org](http://www.charlottestreet.org).