CHA | THE CENTER FOR HISPANIC ARTS

Jr Leo Carrillo

March 26, 1990

Dear Honorable Members of the Council of Corpus Christi:

As we come close to the moment when Corpus Christi will finally possess a Center for the Hispanic Arts, during your period in public office, we again consider the many fine programs that this Center will not only house but will also allow to come into existence. The citizens of Corpus Christi have had to travel to San Antonio and other municipalities to enjoy a Center such as the one we will have. Whether it be visual, performing, literary or the education of the arts, The Center for Hispanic Arts will be that place where Corpus Christi will have the opportunity to showcase the talents of over half of its population. This opportunity will give us not only the ability to reveal our citizenry to our visitors, it will also engender self-esteem and a viable artistic vehicle for expression of the Hispanics and an opportunity for non-Hispanics to appreciate their own culture through the experience of others.

As the moment nears The Center for Hispanic Arts anxiously awaits to see the final result of the council's decision on the options available. The board would like to make one last plea for alternates #1 , #2 and #3. While these alternates refer to actual changes in the remodeling of the building, and while there is obviously a significant aesthetic contributions to the Center, please understand that Alternate #1 in actuality effects the acoustics considerably in the performance/activities area. Alternate #2 and #3 addresses another very important function of the building: the admittance of natural light into the exhibit area. These last two alternates will make a difference in the quality of the area for exhibiting. Without these two alternates the the light under which many artists paint, will be lacking.

Since the CDBG allocations have not been assigned for the 16th year, would the council consider finishing what could very well be a "the jewel" of Corpus Christi's Westside? We are so very close. It is your decision.

A remark about CHA's fund raising capabilities: CHA has always been successful in attracting money for its programatic use. When the Council awarded the original grant to the Center for Hispanic Arts in February 1987, we immediately attracted two large grants because

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of the council's actions. Later, because of litigation, and other attempts to achieve the best possible project for the money -- that is, changing sites twice -- in 1988 and 1989, the enthusiasm for funding was hampered . We have talked to funding agencies and there is consensus: many are waiting to see what the final product will be. As soon as the fisical and permanent address is in place, people, funding agencies and foundations will respond accordingly.

Please respond favorably to our request.

Sincerely,

Leonardo Carrillo

Leonardo Carrillo, Ph.D.
President of the Board