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**For Immediate Release**

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## **HISPANIC HERITAGE FOUNDATION POSTPONES 2008 AWARDS CEREMONY UNTIL KENNEDY CENTER IS AVAILABLE IN 2009**

**WASHINGTON, DC** – The Hispanic Heritage Foundation announced the postponement of the 2008 Hispanic Heritage Awards when it will return to grand Eisenhower Theatre stage at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. For more than a decade, the 22-year-old Awards presentation has been held at the venerable Kennedy Center but the Eisenhower has been under construction for the last two years. The theatre will re-open in October of 2008, but will not be available during Hispanic Heritage Month to host the Hispanic Heritage Awards until 2009. The Foundation is currently looking at Thursday, October 1, 2009 as the rescheduled date.

“Last year we staged a very successful event in honor of our Honorees featuring top celebrities at a lovely hotel, which provided a more intimate setting,” said José Antonio Tijerino, president and CEO of HHF. “Although everyone enjoyed the evening, many complimentary comments ended with ‘but it wasn’t the Kennedy Center.’ The Hispanic Heritage Awards’ brand is synonymous with the prestige of the Kennedy Center therefore the HHF Board of Directors and I decided it would be best to postpone the program.”

The 2009 Hispanic Heritage Awards promises to be the best ever with Latino leaders representing business, community service, education, sports and the arts among other fields that will be celebrated for their contributions to America. The National recipients of the 2008 and 2009 Youth Awards will also take the Kennedy Center stage with the Honorees, celebrity performers and presenters, Members of Congress, business and community leaders and the DC international community.

The Hispanic Heritage Foundation identifies, inspires, promotes and prepares Latino leaders in the community, classroom and workforce through their year-round programs. HHF is a 501c3 (Federal ID# 52-1818255) nonprofit organization which was created by the White House in 1987 to commemorating the inception of Hispanic Heritage Month. For more information please visit [www.HispanicHeritage.org](http://www.HispanicHeritage.org) or click [www.HHFvideo.com](http://www.HHFvideo.com) for a short video.

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