



DEPARTMENT OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS
City of Los Angeles

January 1, 2008

Dear Friends,

The celebrations included in our 2008 Festival Guide reflect the enormous diversity in cultures, traditions, and languages of our City. These festivals are a critical component of our ongoing development as a leading world cultural center, adding to the rich mosaic that makes El Pueblo de Los Angeles so unique.

Beyond the legends and myths we bring from our collective past, these heritage festivals heighten our appreciation for the important cultural contributions of all the people who were born here or migrated to Los Angeles. Through these events, we encounter folklorists, dancers, poets, authors, musicians, jewelers, filmmakers, sculptors, painters, scholars, and dedicated community leaders who work many hours to share their traditions.

More and more, festival organizers are inviting artists from all over the world to participate in these events, illustrating their commitment to authenticity. So please experience new people, feast on excellent cuisine, and discover the art of more than 100 distinct nationalities and cultural communities. Over 400 Festival choices are here for your indulgence!

You will be exposed to fantastic literature, music, film, theater, and dance. Look deeper, however, and you will also discover a fusion of folk art, myth, storytelling, history, tradition, and much more. It is my pleasure to invite you to join me this year in a non-stop celebration of festivals.

So on behalf of all the volunteers, donors, elected officials, arts organizations, and artists who work tirelessly to produce these events, we look forward to seeing you throughout the year and welcoming you to our neighborhoods.

Please bring your families and friends, and enjoy the fun!

Olga Garay

Executive Director

City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs