



NEWS RELEASE

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Renowned playwright Luis Valdez to visit Palo Alto College during 2018 Heritage Month

Alamo Colleges District–Palo Alto College will host renowned American playwright, actor, and film director Luis Valdez for a plática on Thursday, Sept. 20, as part of the College’s annual Heritage Month celebration. Valdez will share his experiences as a Mexican American/Chicano activist and artist during a free presentation in the Palo Alto College Performing Arts Center at 6 p.m.

Known as the “godfather of Chicano theater,” Valdez was one of the original organizers of the United Farm Workers Union, founder of *El Teatro Campesino* – a theater troupe tied to the United Farm Workers movement – and a founding member of the California Arts Council. He has worked in live theater and mainstream media and is best known for playwriting *Zoot Suit* and writing and directing *La Bamba*.

Valdez was inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Theater and has received three Los Angeles Drama Critics Circle Awards and an Emmy Award. Valdez was also awarded the National Medal of Arts by President Barack Obama in September 2016, along with other notable recipients including Mel Brooks, Morgan Freeman, Berry Gordy, and Sandra Cisneros.

All 2018 Heritage month events at Palo Alto College are free and open to the public. The events are sponsored by several Palo Alto College programs including the Center for Mexican American Studies, Office of Student Life, Working Writers Series Committee, Teatro Palo Alto, and the Student Activities Fee.

Palo Alto College, part of the Alamo Colleges District, is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges and a recipient of the 2015 Texas Award for Performance Excellence, a finalist for the 2016 Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, and a top 10 finalist for the 2019 Aspen Prize for Community College Excellence. With over 10,000 students, Palo Alto College is accredited to offer associate degrees and short-term certificates. The College is located on the south side of San Antonio at 1400 W. Villaret Blvd. at I-410 and Texas Hwy 16 and online at alamo.edu/pac.

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