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**FIRST NIGHT MONTEREY ANNOUNCES GRANTS**

October 16, 2009: Today, First Night Monterey announced that they have received grants for outreach workshops from Target Stores, Arts Council for Monterey County, California Arts Council and for the Mi Vida/ Mi Pueblo literacy project from The Robert & Audrey Talbott Foundation. In addition, First Night Monterey was one of only 42 performing arts organizations throughout California to receive funding for music performances from a one-time music grant from the Department of Justice presenting program administered by the California Arts Council. This funding will be used to present a day-long arts celebration in Greenfield in August, 2010.

First Night also is the recipient of funding from the Community Foundation for Monterey County's Communities Advancing the Arts initiative, Phase II fund development grant to be used to increase the organization's sustainability.

Executive Director Ellen Martin said, in announcing these grants, " We are very grateful to these funders for their support of the First Night mission of revealing and celebrating diversity through the First Night Monterey celebration and the First Night ArtWorks! program. We are in our 17<sup>th</sup> year of presenting the Celebration, a local tradition that attracts locals and visitors and of offering arts workshops to children and youth without other exposure to the arts. We are committed to continuing to using art as a catalyst to unify our community. With the help of these generous donors, we can keep the arts alive in our community. "

**Total Grants to date for FNM 2010:**

- Arts Council for Monterey County \$5,000
- Community Foundation of Monterey Peninsula \$5,000
- California Arts Council \$10,000
- DOJ Music Grant through the CAC \$15,000
- The Robert & Audrey Talbott Foundation \$4,700
- Target \$3,000

First Night Monterey was founded in 1992 as a private non-profit organization to produce the Art Works! Free year-round community outreach programs and arts education workshops that culminate in the landmark New Year's Eve Celebration of the Arts on December 31<sup>st</sup> in historic downtown Monterey. With more than 30 venues, this event provides a family-friendly, alcohol-free setting for our community to come together to participate and celebrate the arts in welcoming and accessible ways, and has become a local tradition. First Night Monterey is supported by donations, grants and event admissions.

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