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FIESTA DE FIN DE VERANO WRAPS UP DESERT MUSEUM'S COOL SUMMER NIGHTS

TUCSON – (August 4, 2015) The Desert Museum's annual summer event series, *Cool Summer Nights*, will culminate in a bilingual celebration of the Spanish heritage of the Sonoran Desert. Every activity and presentation during "Fiesta de Fin de Verano" (End of Summer Party), will be presented in both English and Spanish. Popular Spanish performers such as Los Changuitos Feos and Ballet Folklórico bring the excitement of Spanish culture to life.

Co-hosted by the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, and sponsored by radio stations La Buena 94.3 and La Caliente 92.1/95.7, "Fiesta de Fin de Verano" is *Cool Summer Nights* first fully bilingual event.

"We are pleased to partner with the Desert Museum on this exciting celebration. It's a great opportunity for our bicultural audience to experience all that the Desert Museum has to offer," said Lea Márquez-Peterson, President of the Tucson Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

The evening's activities, which are all presented in both Spanish and English, include:

Live Animal Presentations

- <u>Creatures of the Night</u>: While the bat may the most well-known nocturnal animal, there are many more creatures that peer at us from the cover of darkness. Education Specialist Jesus Garcia explains why these animals only come out at night.
- <u>All About Cats</u>: Did you know all of the cats at the Desert Museum purr, but none roar? Join Conservation Research Scientist (and resident cat expert) Sergio Avila in Cat Canyon. Watch the cats of the Sonoran Desert as you learn about the habits of each species, what makes them different from each other, the endangered species of cats in the Sonoran Desert region, and conservation efforts to protect them.

Educational Activities

- <u>Interpretive Stations</u>: Docents at stations throughout the grounds will explain the habits and history of Sonoran Desert animals. Many stations offer an up-close experience with desert animals.
- <u>Slide Show & Talk</u>: *Animals & Ancient Cultures of Mexico*: The Sonoran Desert in Mexico is home to ancient civilizations and animals that can only be found south of the border. Presented by Conservation Research Scientist, Sergio Avila.
- <u>Guided Tours</u>: Learn about the Sonoran Desert's native plants and animals with a hosted tour of the grounds.

Entertainment

<u>Los Changitos Feos</u> bring their distinct style of Mariachi music <u>Tesoro</u> sparks up the night with Rumba, Flamenco and Latin tunes <u>Ballet Folklórico Tapatio</u> dances to traditional music in a vivid swirl of color <u>Dr. Eduardo Costa</u> plays soothing classical guitar serenades <u>Ironwood Gallery</u> art exhibit and family art activities

The grounds of the Desert Museum are open throughout the event though some exhibits close early. Food and beverage is available at three restaurants, including a casual grill, an ice cream shop and an upscale dining room.

Cool Summer Nights' Fiesta de Fin de Verano is open from 5-10pm. Regular admission rates apply; members free.

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The Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum is one of the nation's leading outdoor, living museums, featuring more than 230 animals and 1,200 varieties of desert plants. Its mission is to inspire people to live in harmony with the natural world by fostering love, appreciation, and understanding, of the bi-national Sonoran Desert. The museum is located at 2021 N. Kinney Road, nestled in Tucson Mountain Park adjacent to Saguaro National Park (West). It is open daily year round with operating hours varying by season. Call (520) 883-2702 or visit <u>www.desertmuseum.org</u> for more information



Saturday, September 5, 2015 5-10 p.m.

Music



TESORO

Tucson's hottest Latin band hits the stage with hot Flamenco, Rumba and Rock. Catch Tesoro's new song and video "Mirame Mi Amor."

LOS CHANGITOS FEOS

The ensemble that launched the youth mariachi movement, Los Changuitos Feos' works to instill appreciation of Mariachi music and pride in Hispanic culture.



EDUARDO COSTA

A Brazilian master of fine guitar and international award-winner, Eduardo Costa's serenades feature the soothing sounds of Spanish guitar.







BALLET FOLKLORICO TAPATIO

Students pass several levels of difficult instruction to master this colorful and passionate art. Their experience helps them become part of a healthy and productive community.





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