



Raices de Mexico

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Raices de Mexico seeks to produce and promote works of high artistic, cultural, and educational value for participants and spectators alike.



Raices de Mexico

P.O. Box 50101

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Todd Gaviglio and Rosa Morales performing a dance from Colima.

Board of Directors

Antonia Brass
Columba Castañeda
Todd Gaviglio
David Giles
Andrea Masterson
Javier B. Pacheco
María Elena Varela
Matias Varela



Sources of Funding

The Palo Alto Weekly
Holiday Fund
David and Lucile
Packard Foundation
San Francisco Foundation
Peninsula Community
Foundation

Celebrating Mexican Heritage

Founded in 1980, Raices de Mexico is a non-profit organization dedicated to the promotion of cultural education through regional dance and popular Mexican art. The Midpeninsula group has built an impressive repertoire of material showcasing a diverse array of Mexican arts, culture and history. Raices has accumulated authentic dance costumes from eighteen distinct regions of Mexico. The costumes are worn in each dance sequence, which has its corresponding music, and written documentation of footwork and choreography, as well as informative narratives on the significance of these dance forms.

Students from throughout the area are welcome to participate in Raices classes which include children's groups, a beginning and an intermediate adults' dance class and a performing group. Members dance in events throughout the Bay Area and also produce their own individualized annual events. In August of 1997, Raices presented an evening of folkloric music, dance and entertainment at the Mountain View Center for the Performing Arts entitled "A Journey Through Mexico". The group also performed in the San Francisco Ethnic Dance Festival, "the highlight of an exciting and fulfilling year", according to Artistic Director, Maria Ines Perez.

Raices events and classes have the positive effect of enhancing the lives of the participants as well as celebrating the rich heritage of the Mexican community. They also enrich the lives of the entire community by exposing programs of high artistic and educational value to a broad audience.

Children are particularly important in the program. They develop a greater sense of self worth as they participate and are given support and encouragement by a talented staff. The students must maintain physical fitness, learn routines, perfect their techniques and work on presentations. Raices staff seeks to stimulate the young students to develop their highest potential, steering them away from negative influences by offering creative alternatives. The staff emphasizes hard work and honesty.

Based in East Palo Alto, the non-profit offers folkloric dance classes for children (6-11), teenagers (12+) and adults twice a week at the Cubberly Community Center, 4000 Middlefield Road, Palo Alto. There is no age limit and previous dance experience is not required. There is a nominal

monthly tuition charge and a one-time registration fee. Interested persons are encouraged to call 650-322-1501 for further information and to sign up for classes.

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