

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO APPOINTS NEW DIRECTOR

December 13, 2013; NEW YORK – El Museo del Barrio announces that it has appointed Jorge Daniel Veneciano, the director of the Sheldon Museum of Art at the University of Nebraska in Lincoln, Nebraska, as its new Director. Mr. Veneciano will start on March 1, 2014. The announcement coincides with a new \$1.6 million grant over the next three years from the Ford Foundation, a major supporter of El Museo’s exhibitions and public programs for years.

Mr. Veneciano has served as director of the Sheldon Museum since 2008, during which time he has dramatically expanded and diversified the museum’s visitor base by creating community partnerships and programs, drawing new audiences to the museum; he has mounted nationally recognized and award-winning exhibitions, publications and programs; significantly grew the collection through donations and gifts; and strategically increased its operating budget by twenty-five percent.

“We are delighted that Jorge will be leading El Museo,” said Tony Bechara, chair of the board of El Museo. “He has a broad, inclusive vision that will make El Museo a center of pride in our community and a source of cultural influence and inspiration in New York and around the world. We also want to express our deep gratitude to the Ford Foundation, which has yet again showed its strong commitment to the future of our institution.”

Mr. Veneciano has deep roots in New York, having worked as Curator of Exhibitions at The Studio Museum in Harlem from 1994–1999, and as Director of the Paul Robeson Galleries at Rutgers University in Newark, N.J. from 2005–2008. In addition, he received his PhD from Columbia University in 2006.

Mr. Veneciano said, “I am delighted to be returning to New York at this historic moment when El Museo is poised to embark on a new chapter of its storied history and ascend to new levels of engagement with its growing audiences in the city and in the world. The museum is at the cultural heart of this city and offers *all* New Yorkers a place to experience Latino and Latin American art and culture on a global stage. It’s a brave new world for Latino communities in this country, and El Museo can provide leadership in the arts with vision, ambition, and passion.”

Mr. Veneciano also currently serves as Vice President of the Board of Directors, and Chair of the Communications Committee of El Centro de las Américas in Lincoln, Nebraska; as a Board Member of the Lincoln Partners for Public Art Development; a member of the Association of Art Museum Directors; and he was the first man to serve on the Committee on Women in the Arts, College Art Association, which he did from 2007 – 2010.

Prior to assuming his position at the Paul Robeson Galleries, Mr. Veneciano taught in the Graduate Studies Division of the Rhode Island School of Design. Before moving to New York in 1994, he was Curator/Director of the Lankershim Arts Center (North Hollywood) and William Reagh Los Angeles Photography Center (Downtown), City of Los Angeles Cultural Affairs Department. Raised in Los Angeles, and born in Argentina, he received his M.F.A. in Art and Critical Studies from the California Institute of the Arts, Valencia, an M.A. in Art and Art History from California State University, Los Angeles, and a B.A. in Philosophy, Political Science at the University of California, Los Angeles.

ABOUT EL MUSEO DEL BARRIO

El Museo del Barrio, New York's leading Latino cultural institution, welcomes visitors of all backgrounds to discover the artistic landscape of Latino, Caribbean, and Latin American cultures. Their richness is represented in El Museo's wide-ranging collections and critically acclaimed exhibitions, complemented by film, literary, visual and performing arts series, cultural celebrations, and educational programs. For more information on El Museo del Barrio, please visit www.elmuseo.org.

MEDIA CONTACT:

Rose Mary Cortes

212.660.7102

rcortes@elmuseo.org