

Haitian Neighborhood Center Sant La, Will Launch Jazz Series With Knight Arts Challenge Grant

Miami, Florida-- February 11, 2009 – Haitian Neighborhood Center Sant La, will launch a Haitian Jazz Concert Series in South Florida over the next five years, with a grant from the John S. and James L. Knight Foundation.

The grant is part of the Knight Arts Challenge, a five-year, \$40 million initiative to bring the community together through the South Florida Arts. The effort includes endowment grants to leading arts institutions, plus a community-wide contest to fund the best arts ideas.

The Haitian Jazz Series will feature renowned performers from the United States, Europe, Canada and Haiti. It will introduce South Florida to a profound new sound crafted with traditional Haitian folklore infused with Jazz standards. Referred to as Afro-Haitian Jazz, Voodoo-Jazz or Creole Jazz, this new musical genre is infusing the airwaves and receiving international acclaim. Jazz aficionados explain this growing craze by citing the much disputed roots of jazz, which many imply originated with the Haitians who immigrated to Cuba and New Orleans circa the 18th and 19th century.

The first Creole Jazz Soirée will take place in the heart of Miami's Little Haiti during Haitian Cultural Heritage Month. "May is when South Floridians are focused on Haitian culture and are looking forward to events that celebrate Haitian Heritage." said Sant La Executive Director, Gepsie Metellus. The Jazz Soiree will include Caribbean Style Cocktails and free CDs to those wishing to sample various artists. It is the most exciting opportunity to experience Haitian Jazz at its best and feel the warmth of the culture.

Sant La is a not-for-profit One Stop Neighborhood Center that prides itself in helping others appreciate Haitian traditions through various endeavors, thus fostering an understanding of Haitian people.

For more on Sant La's Haitian Jazz Concert Series visit www.SantLa.org or e-mail info@santla.org. We hope to bring South Florida together through the arts.

The John S. and James L. Knight Foundation promotes excellence in journalism worldwide and invests in the vitality of the U.S. communities where the Knight brothers owned newspapers. Knight Foundation focuses on projects with the potential to create transformational change. For more, visit www.knightfoundation.org.