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**TEXAS FOUNDATION FOR THE ARTS RECEIVES GRANT
FOR DOCUMENTARY FILM ABOUT MEXICAN ARTIST DANIEL LECHON**

HOUSTON, June 30, 2003 – Texas Foundation for the Arts has received a \$12,700 grant from The John G. and Marie Stella Kenedy Memorial Foundation toward the development of a documentary film that follows internationally acclaimed Mexican artist Daniel Lechon as he paints a series of 9-foot-by-30-foot wall murals for the new Kenedy Ranch Museum of South Texas in Sarita, Texas.

The documentary, titled “The Murals of Daniel Lechon,” is being produced by Sunset Productions of Houston, Texas. Texas Foundation for the Arts is the fiscal sponsor of the project.

“‘The Murals of Daniel Lechon’ will provide a powerful, behind-the-scenes look at Lechon as he recounts hundreds of years of rich and colorful South Texas history through his hand-painted, one-of-a-kind murals,” said Sunset Productions President and filmmaker Jim Bailey. The documentary, which will be submitted to PBS, will explore how the murals connect the cultures of Mexico and South Texas, as well as Lechon’s relationship with the Mexican Muralists and his interaction with well-known artists from that era.

Houston-based museum designer and planner Steve Harding, of Steve Harding Design, Inc., the designer of the Kenedy Ranch Museum of South Texas, selected Lechon to paint the murals. The museum, located in Sarita, Texas, 60 miles south of Corpus Christi, is scheduled to celebrate its grand opening on Saturday, October 25, 2003.

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The Kenedy Memorial Foundation

The Kenedy Memorial Foundation is organized exclusively for charitable purposes. Founded in 1961 by Sarita Kenedy East, granddaughter of Mifflin Kenedy and Petra Vela Kenedy, the Foundation has donated more than \$160 million to charitable causes and organizations in Texas. In South Texas, where the majority of its contributions have been made, the Foundation is one of the major charity contributors.

Texas Foundation for the Arts

Founded in 2001, Houston-based Texas Foundation for the Arts is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization dedicated to promoting a positive environment for the growth of the visual and performing arts throughout the state of Texas and beyond by recognizing and promoting artists and cultural arts organizations, encouraging young artists to pursue their artistic talents, and heightening global awareness for Texas's rich cultural environment. For more information on Texas Foundation for the Arts and its programs, please visit www.texarts.org.

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