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The Rosenthal Theater at Inner-City Arts Welcomes New Theater Manager

(Los Angeles, CA) -- Dolores Chávez has been named theater manager for **The Rosenthal Theater** on the Central City East campus of **Inner-City Arts**. Opened in fall 2008, The Rosenthal Theater hosts theater arts classes and student performances, as well as local, national and international visiting artists and theater companies.

As manager, Chávez's role is to develop exciting, innovative and diverse theater programs for youth, school communities, families and the public. She will also pursue new partnerships with local, regional, national and international theater and performing arts companies, and market the theater as rental space for artists and companies.

A native of East Los Angeles, Chávez studied theater arts at the University of La Verne and at St. Paul / St. Mary University in Cheltenham, England. She has periodically worked with Inner-City Arts since 1994 and brings a wealth of expertise and experience to The Rosenthal Theater. During her 15 years with Center Theater Group as the Coordinating Producer of P.L.A.Y., she brought free performances of their professional youth theater productions to the site. Chávez most recently worked as an arts/community partnership consultant, as well as event producer and writer/researcher, through her company Common Ground.

"The state-of-the-art Rosenthal Theater at Inner-City Arts gives our students a professional theater experience, and an opportunity to invite their community and parents onto our campus," said Chávez. "We are going to turn this theater into a destination in the heart of downtown Los Angeles-- not just for the students and families of Inner-City Arts, but also for the community. It is accessible and inviting, an opportunity to enlighten children, and new inspiration for visiting artists. The black-box configuration gives us unlimited possibilities to engage with local and international artists in sharing their art and imagination with our youth community; to be a place for dialogue and the advocacy of the creative spirit in all of us. It is a flexible space that inspires our young people to broaden even more their gifts and imagination through all of the arts."

Funded by Philip and Monica Rosenthal, both of *Everybody Loves Raymond*, the theater is a critical component of Inner-City Arts' mission to provide elementary, middle and high school students--most living in Los Angeles' poorest neighborhoods--with the tools and skills they need to succeed academically and personally. "Having something like The Rosenthal Theater for the children in this neighborhood and to see them come in here...I think it's going to elevate their whole sense of belonging and ideas of what is possible," said Monica Rosenthal.

For more information and a calendar of upcoming events at The Rosenthal Theater, visit www.inner-cityarts.org.

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Inner-City Arts is a learning oasis in the heart of Skid Row where professional artists teach students in a real studio environment. Founded in 1989, Inner-City Arts works in partnership with the Los Angeles Unified School District to bring elementary and middle school students to its campus during the school day for instruction in visual arts, ceramics, music, dance, drama and animation. Middle and high school students and adults participate in after-school and Saturday programs. Academic research demonstrates that the performing arts have a measurable, positive impact on children who are economically disadvantaged. Drama and theater improve a child's reading and writing skills, as well as interpersonal skills such as dealing with conflict. Dance contributes to increased self-confidence, persistence, social tolerance and appreciation of individual and group social development.