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**Contact:**

Elhiu Dominguez  
915-546-2016 (o) or 915-472-1354  
Cynthia Munoz  
210-225-3353 (o) or 210-860-9633 (c)

**RENOWNED ARTIST EMANUEL MARTINEZ TO WORK WITH STUDENTS ON MURAL PROJECT AT THE JUDGE ENRIQUE H. PENA JUVENILE JUSTICE CENTER**  
*HIS INTEREST IN ART TURNED HIS OWN LIFE AROUND AS A TROUBLED YOUTH*

EL PASO, TX (September 7, 2012) – Students at the Judge Enrique H. Pena Juvenile Justice Center will soon have the opportunity to work alongside Emanuel Martinez, a nationally renowned painter, sculptor and muralist. Martinez will direct the students in painting two large scale murals, a process he utilizes to help motivate them to improve their lives. Students will paint images reflecting positive educational and career choices that help them visualize and realize their full potential. The project is part of a national effort to help turn kids' lives around through art.

It is the seventh mural project Martinez directs this year for incarcerated youth around the U.S. through his Emanuel Project, a multi-faceted program that includes art curriculum, art therapy, research and mural projects. Other projects completed this year include juvenile detention centers in Logansport, Ind., Lexington, Ky.; Eastman, Ga.; San Antonio, Tx.; Edinburg, Tx., and Albuquerque, NM.

**ABOUT MARTINEZ**

Emanuel Martinez began his career as an artist at the age of thirteen, when he painted his first mural at the Lookout Mountain School for Boys, a facility for juvenile offenders. Two years later, after being incarcerated three times and winning statewide art competitions, Emanuel established a reputation as an exceptionally talented artist. This notoriety drew the attention of Bill Longley, a prominent artist from Santa Fe, NM who was implementing an Arts Apprenticeship Program for troubled youth. Through Bill's two year mentorship and commitment, he was successful in getting Emanuel back in school, where he graduated and won two art scholarships. By the age of twenty-two, Emanuel had worked with the most significant muralist in the world, David Alfaro Siqueiros and had completed three art works that are now in the permanent collection of the National Museum of American Art Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.

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ART PROGRAMS FOR INCARCERATED YOUTH

As a muralist, painter and sculptor, Emanuel occupies an outstanding status among national and internationally known artists. Since establishing a studio in 1968, Martinez has received national acclaim as a precursor of the contemporary mural movement in the U.S. He has received prestigious awards for his design capabilities and for engaging young people into art projects requiring high standards of workmanship. Emanuel has been featured in over 250 newspaper/magazine articles and 30 published books, including a book written on his art career entitled: “Emanuel Martinez: A Retrospective.”

## MURAL UNVEILING

Students at the Judge Enrique H. Pena Juvenile Justice Center will paint 80% of the mural designed by Martinez starting September 10. A mural unveiling is scheduled for Friday, September 21, 2012, at 2:00 p.m., at the Juvenile Justice Center, 6400 Delta Drive, El Paso, Tx., 79905. At the unveiling ceremony, muralist Martinez and participating students will be joined by El Paso County Judge Veronica Escobar, U.S. District Judge Philip R. Martínez, 65<sup>th</sup> District Court Judge Yahara Lisa Gutiérrez and El Paso County Attorney Jo Anne Bernal.

The Judge Enrique H. Pena Juvenile Justice Center murals will be the 26th and 27th murals completed in 18 juvenile detention facilities nationwide since the Emanuel Project started in January 2011. The 2 murals will measure 10’ x 26’ and 10’ x 32’ for a total of 580 square feet of murals to be painted. The murals are titled “Positive Thoughts to a brighter Future” and “Seeds of Imagination.”

## MORE

To date, more than 17,500 square feet of murals have been painted as part of the Emanuel Project with research playing an important role. Youth who participate in the mural process are asked to complete a self-esteem study before and after the mural project, which helps assess the immediate impact of the program. The Emanuel Project was founded by Denver artist and advocate for at-risk youth Louisa Craft Jornayvaz. Dr. James “Randy” Minnick serves as the executive director and can be reached at 229-938-7362 or at [rminnick@theminnickgroup.com](mailto:rminnick@theminnickgroup.com).

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