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RAGDALE FOUNDATION RECEIVES GRANT FROM NEA
New Collaborative Residency Program to Benefit Latino Poets

January 5, 2010 – LAKE FOREST, IL – The Ragdale Foundation was recently awarded a \$20,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to fund **The Ragdale Collaborative Residency Program for Latino Poets**, a new initiative to support the planning and implementation of a collaborative residency for eight outstanding Latino poets to live and work in community at Ragdale for one week. This pilot project is designed to help the Ragdale Foundation continue its role as a vital resource for artists in an ever-changing, multicultural society.

Francisco Aragon, Director of Letras Latinas at the University of Notre Dame, who will develop the program with Ragdale said, “I embrace this opportunity to work with Ragdale as we strive to encourage and support poets who also serve their communities as editors.

Over the next few months, Susan Tillett, Executive Director, and Regin Igloria, Director of Artists-in-Residence, both of Ragdale, will work closely with Aragon to identify and recruit a group of eight published Latino poets—all of whom also serve as literary editors, at either a small presses or literary journals, to come together in residency at Ragdale in the fall of 2010.

“My hope is that this residency will function as a catalyst for further conversation and collaboration among literary artists who also view themselves as cultural activists,” said Aragon.

Susan Tillett added, “The NEA project is very exciting for us. It will be the first time that we have been able to invite a group of residents to live and work collaboratively as well as on their individual art.” She continued, “The design of the Ragdale campus is ideal for creating this kind of close community and we are eager to see the results.”

The residency will culminate in a public program with The Poetry Center of Chicago which will allow each poet to share their published work in addition to work created while in residency at Ragdale.

Ragdale is located in Arts and Crafts architect Howard Van Doren Shaw’s Lake Forest country estate, just 30 miles north of Chicago. Built in 1897, the Ragdale House is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Ragdale hosts up to 200 artists, writers, and composers each year, making it the largest interdisciplinary artist’s community in the Midwest and the fourth largest in the country. Noted past residents include Jane Hamilton, Alex Kotlowitz and Audrey Niffenegger. For more information on any of Ragdale’s programs or Ragdale’s history, please visit www.ragdale.org or call (847) 234-1063 x. 205.