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For immediate release

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High res images available [here](#).

OKC Nonprofits Come Together as Calderón Dance Festival Shifts Gears, Partners with SPARK! Creative Lab and Arts Council of Oklahoma City's Art Moves Program

Oklahoma City - It's a year of transition for the Calderón Dance Festival as it brings world-renowned Flamenco artists ReVoZO to OKC's SPARK! Creative Lab, 1900 Linwood Blvd., Oklahoma City, 73106, for a free community performance. The performance will take place from 3-5 p.m., on Mother's Day, May 12, following a series of classes and a performance in the Plaza District. The Calderón Dance Festival is funded in part by OK Let's Dance, an initiative of the Kirkpatrick Family Fund.

Full schedule of 2024 Calderón Dance Festival events:

- **May 10:** Flamenco Tablao Performance at Everything Goes Dance Studio. **SOLD OUT**
- **May 11:** Community classes with ReVoZo. 4 - 5:30 p.m. - children ages 5-12; 5:30 - 7 p.m. - teen - adult beginning and intermediate students. Call 525-1000 to reserve your spot. **LIMITED SPOTS REMAINING.**
- **May 12, 3-5 p.m.:** ReVoZo Community Performance at SPARK! Creative Lab. Free. Limited indoor seating (capacity is 64) is available by reservation [here](#). There is also an outdoor, paved overflow area perfect for bringing lawn chairs or picnic blankets, no reservation needed. This performance is a celebration of Mother's Day and also a remembrance of the day Shannon Calderón passed.
- **May 13:** ReVoZo will bring a historical perspective of Flamenco and Chicano culture to students at Classen SAS at NE and Capitol Hill High School.

The Calderón Dance Festival is an event conceived of by the late Shannon Calderón herself, upon learning of her terminal ovarian cancer diagnosis. Calderón, who died at 45 almost nine years ago, enlisted her colleague and friend Hui Cha Poos to create and produce the event she imagined. Poos, in turn, ensured that Calderón's family members were also deeply involved in

the project. The Calderón Dance Festival launched in 2022 as a project of the Plaza District Association. The event grew quickly, taking on a life of its own in its second year.

“We loved producing the Calderón Dance Festival,” said Plaza District Executive Director Rachael Leonhart. “But we realized that it was becoming large enough to stand on its own, and so we’ve partnered with SPARK! Creative Lab and the Arts Council of Oklahoma City’s Art Moves program to ensure that Shannon’s legacy of joy, love and dance will continue to flourish.”

“Aunt Shannon had so many unfinished projects and barriers to break not only in the arts community but also in the Hispanic community,” said Erika Vasquez, Calderón’s niece, dance educator at Classen School of Advanced Studies and renowned Flamenco instructor at the dance studio found by her aunt, Everything Goes Dance Studio, in the Plaza District. “It is important for us to keep the Festival going. It’s an event beloved by the community, a genuine celebration of dance, and we are thrilled that so many non-profit groups are working together as it evolves into its next phase,” said Vasquez.

Nicole Poole, founder, executive director and producer at SPARK! Creative Lab, was immediately drawn to the project. “We are honored to partner with the Calderón Dance Festival. Its mission and that of SPARK work together beautifully. We are here to employ the arts as a tool for individual and social well-being. We embrace our purpose of pioneering collaborative methods of community engagement and are pleased to partner with the Calderón Dance Festival, the Arts Council of Oklahoma City and the Plaza District Association as we co-create the future of this beautiful event.”

Plans for the 2025 Calderón Dance Festival are underway.

About ReVóZo:

[New Mexico ensemble] ReVoZo draws upon Flamenco puro and Rumba Flamenca traditions while combining both with elements of dance music, including Cuban Son, Reggae, Cumbia, Ranchera and Funk. The result is a danceable music offering that is modern yet stays true to its cultural roots. Renowned vocalist Vicente Griego of ReVóZo has performed on stages throughout the world, collaborating with some of the most respected Flamenco artists of our time (Clark, C., 2023 The Los Alamos Daily Post Copyright © 2012-2024.)

About SPARK! Creative Lab:

SPARK! Creative Lab employs the arts as a tool for individual and social well-being. Founded in 2021 as a response to the social and economic upheaval of the pandemic, SPARK! invests in local artists and fosters dialogue and connection within communities through innovative spaces, programs, and artworks that engage our audiences and illuminate our shared humanity. From site-specific activations at venues like Scissortail Park and East Side Pizza,

educational partnerships with schools and organizations like Capitol Hill High School, PIVOT, and Freedom Girls, to advocacy projects for Veterans' care and collaborations addressing social needs with partners such as OK Appleseed and Justice for Survivors, SPARK! aims to expand the definition and impact of community engagement in the arts. National collaborations with institutions like The Creative Change Coalition, Cal State LA and MIT | SOLVE highlight SPARK!'s growing influence, while its dedication to paying living wages to over 30 local artists underscores its commitment to empowering the creative voice of our community. With a focus on social practice rooted in compassion and diversity, SPARK! continues to pioneer collaborative methods of community engagement towards a more creative, connected and compassionate Oklahoma City.

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