



CITY OF  
TUCSON



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## MEDIA ADVISORY

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**Contact:** Sierra Davenport  
Community Promotions and Marketing Manager  
Parks and Recreation  
520-837-8032  
Sierra.Davenport@tucsonaz.gov

**Date:** 2/18/2014  
**TDD:** 791-2639

### CELEBRATION OF ARTWORK RESTORATION AT THE GARDEN OF GETHSEMANE

The City of Tucson and Knights of Columbus invite you to celebrate the restoration of artwork at the Garden of Gethsemane on Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at 3 p.m. The Garden of Gethsemane has been open to the public for more than 30 years, and at one time sculptured figures were also in the Santa Cruz riverbed, as well as along the bank.

A sculpture and plaque dedicated to artist Felix Lucero, who died in 1951, is featured at the entrance to the garden. Lucero, with no formal training in art, originally created all the art pieces from sand from the Santa Cruz riverbed and originally used plaster, later cement. The site has been considered an important cultural site for the local neighborhood, with dozens of Quinceañeras and marriages performed there.

While the current Garden home of the statuary has protected the artist's fine, primitive, sculpture in cement from the ravages of the river's monsoon currents, it has not protected the fine sculptural details from aging of materials, well intentioned but damaging repairs, and occasional vandalism. With the efforts of the Knights of Columbus, a grant for \$51,000 was secured from the Salvador Foundation of Colorado Springs, Colorado for the repair and restoration of seventeen major items of statuary. In May 2012, Sir Knight Mario Vassallo, President of the Chief Judge John M. Roll Chapter of the Knights of Columbus announced the completion and execution of an agreement for the restoration of the 17 items to be completed by artist Gregory Schoon.

The effort to secure the grant and negotiate the work agreement with the artist Greg Schoon has been performed and overseen by the Gethsemane Advisory Board that is comprised of Chairman Mario Vassallo; Project Engineer SK Ralph E Montijo, Administrator for the Tucson Parks and Recreation Department, Peg Weber, and Projects Manager for the Tucson Pima Arts Council, Mary Ellen Wooten. The Tucson Parks and Recreation Department would like to acknowledge the interest, generosity and participation of the Knights of Columbus, the Salvador Foundation, and the Tucson Pima Arts Council for their interest in the Garden of Gethsemane and their generosity, cooperation and assistance.

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*If participants require an accommodation or materials in accessible format or require a foreign language interpreter or materials in a language other than English for any event, please call Tucson Parks and Recreation, 791-4873, at least five business days in advance*



## MEDIA ADVISORY

**When:** Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at 3 p.m.

**Where:** 602 W. Congress St.

**Additional Information:** Entrance is accessible from N. Bonita Avenue and limited free parking is available.

**Contact:** Sierra Davenport, Community Promotions and Marketing Manager  
[Sierra.Davenport@tucsonaz.gov](mailto:Sierra.Davenport@tucsonaz.gov) or 520-837-8032

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**Celebration of Artwork Restoration at the Garden of Gethsemane**

The Knights of Columbus and the City of Tucson cordially invite you to attend the ceremony celebrating the artwork restoration at the Garden of Gethsemane

**Tuesday, February 25, 2014 at 3 p.m.**  
602 W. Congress Street

Free parking is available.

For more information, please call Sierra Davenport at 837-8032.

**THE SALVADOR FOUNDATION** **KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS**  
IN SERVICE TO ONE. IN SERVICE TO ALL.

**GARDEN of GETHSEMANE**

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