



# Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation

El Presidio de Santa Bárbara SHP • Casa de la Guerra  
Santa Inés Mission Mills • Jimmy's Oriental Gardens

## PRESS RELEASE

### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Photos available upon request

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## ***Hotel Mariachi: Urban Space and Cultural Heritage in Los Angeles***

**Lecture by Catherine L. Kurland and Evangeline Ordaz-Molina**



(SANTA BARBARA, CA)—The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) is proud to present ***Hotel Mariachi: Urban Space and Cultural Heritage in Los Angeles***, a lecture by Catherine L. Kurland and Evangeline Ordaz-Molina on **September 18, 2014** in the Presidio Chapel at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park (123 East Canon Perdido Street). **At 5:00 p.m.** enjoy a special guest appearance by **Mariachi Garibaldi de Jaime Cuéllar** co-presented with **¡Viva el Arte de Santa Bárbara!** The lecture begins at **5:30 p.m.**

*Hotel Mariachi* is a book of photographs and essays depicting the mariachi musicians of Boyle Heights, Los Angeles, and the eighty-year-old mariachi culture centered in the 1889 hotel on Mariachi Plaza. It is a story of valiant efforts by the community to preserve the cultural heritage of the mariachis and the historic hotel, built by great-grandparents of author Catherine Kurland, who traces her Latino family history back to the birth of Los Angeles. In her Introduction, Evangeline Ordaz-Molina writes that documentary art

photographer Miguel Gandert "joyously and heartbreakingly captures this dichotomy of a regal band at play and the harsh reality of the struggle for work." Enrique Lamadrid offers an in-depth study of mariachi music, the lives of the musicians, and the role of southern California in the evolution of this musical form.

The authors will be signing copies of their books which will be available for purchase at the event.

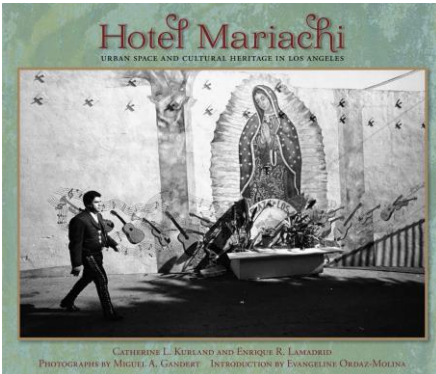


**Catherine L. Kurland** left her hometown of Los Angeles for the East Coast after graduating from the University of Southern California, relocating to Santa Fe, New Mexico, in 2004. Before her return to the Spanish Southwest, Kurland lived in New York, where she co-owned Kurland•Zabar, the first gallery in the United States to specialize in the British Arts & Crafts movement. At about the time she began her graduate studies in historic preservation at the University of New Mexico, Kurland discovered that the architect-designed hotel in Boyle Heights, Los Angeles, built by her great-grandparents in 1889, was still standing—now a residence for over 100 mariachi musicians! Her efforts to document the history of the imperiled hotel for a preservation designation led to Kurland's discovery of her own deep roots in Spanish and Mexican Los Angeles—and Santa Barbara. Kurland is executive editor of El Camino Real de Tierra Adentro Trail Association's award-winning journal, *Chronicles of the Trail*.



**Evangeline Ordaz-Molina** was born just blocks away from *Hotel Mariachi* in Boyle Heights, Los Angeles. She was one of the four founders of the East LA Community Corporation (ELACC), the community-development nonprofit that bought and restored the 1889 hotel and served on the board for twelve years as vice president and general counsel. Ordaz-Molina is also a playwright whose works about Latino immigration have been produced throughout the Southwest. She is currently writing a play about Los Angeles, commissioned by the Center Theater Group (Mark Taper Forum, Ahmanson Theater, Kirk Douglas Theater). A member of the California Bar, Ordaz-Molina practiced law in the areas of human rights, government benefits, and housing rights, and teaches constitutional law at California State University, Northridge

## CALENDAR LISTING



### ***Hotel Mariachi: Urban Space and Cultural Heritage in Los Angeles***

**Lecture by Catherine L. Kurland and Evangeline Ordaz-Molina**

**Date:** Thursday, September 18, 2014

**Time:** Special Guest Mariachi Garibaldi de Jaime Cuéllar 5:00 p.m.;  
Lecture 5:30 p.m.

**Location:** Presidio Chapel at El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park, 123 East Canon Perdido Street, Santa Barbara

**Cost:** Free

**Short Description:** Catherine Kurland and Evangeline Ordaz-Molina discuss *Hotel Mariachi*, their book which depicts the mariachi musicians of Boyle Heights, Los Angeles, and the eighty-year-old mariachi culture centered in the 1889 hotel on Mariachi Plaza. It is a story of valiant efforts by the community to preserve the cultural heritage of the mariachis and the historic hotel.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION:** Visit [www.sbthp.org](http://www.sbthp.org) or call (805) 965-0093

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**ABOUT Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP)**—The Santa Barbara Trust for Historic Preservation (SBTHP) has works to *protect, preserve, restore, reconstruct, and interpret historic sites in Santa Barbara County*. Founded in 1963 by Dr. Pearl Chase and other concerned community leaders, SBTHP operates El Presidio de Santa Bárbara State Historic Park—Santa Barbara’s 18<sup>th</sup> century birthplace—under a unique agreement with California State Parks and purchased the neighboring building that housed Jimmy’s Oriental Gardens, providing an opportunity to interpret the history of Santa Barbara’s Asian American community in the Presidio Neighborhood. SBTHP owns and operates Casa de la Guerra, the 1820s home of Presidio Comandante José de la Guerra and his family—the restored home is now a museum featuring original furnishings and rotating exhibits. SBTHP signed an agreement with State Parks to manage and develop the Santa Inés Mission Mills, located near the town of Solvang, as a future California State Park. In 2011, SBTHP was awarded the Trustees’ Emeritus Award for Excellence in the Stewardship of Historic Sites by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. With the help of continuing education programs and exhibits, SBTHP strives to encourage community involvement and foster an appreciation for Santa Barbara County’s distinct history.

**Learn more at [www.sbthp.org](http://www.sbthp.org).**