



Senator Eliot Shapleigh

District 29

El Paso Press Advisory

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For Immediate Release

May 1, 2009

OFFICE OF SENATOR SHAPLEIGH, YISD, EPISD, TO HOST "¡GANAS! PHOTO FIESTA" AT INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM OF ART

STUDENT WINNERS OF PHOTO AND ESSAY CONTEST TO BE HONORED

"Art is a window to the soul. In ¡Ganas!, students tell us with photos and essays what makes them strong."

EL PASO - On Tuesday May 5, 2009, at 5:30 p.m. at the **El Paso International Museum of Art**, the office of Senator Eliot Shapleigh and representatives from the El Paso and Ysleta school districts will host a **"Photo Fiesta" to celebrate winners of the ¡Ganas! student photo and essay contest.**

¡Ganas! is a [student photo and essay contest](#) designed to promote youth empowerment.



Beginning in January 2009, 250 digital cameras furnished by Walmart were delivered to participating schools in El Paso. Students were asked to join the contest by taking photos of people, culture or places that have a positive influence on their values, families and community. Teachers mentored students in writing a 100-word essay on what the photo means to them. The contest was open to any K-12 student who enrolled in El Paso schools.

"Art is a window to the soul. In ¡Ganas!, students tell us with photos and essays what makes them strong," Senator Shapleigh said.

During the May 5, Photo Fiesta, the 100 best student photos and essays will be displayed at the [International Museum of Art](#). The first place winner will win a \$100 Visa gift card and will spend a day with Senator Shapleigh.

- More -

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Selected photos will also be available for view on the ¡Ganas! Web site, <http://ganas2009.com/>. A reception will follow the award-giving ceremony. The reception will feature flamenco dancers sponsored by the City of El Paso Museums and Cultural Affairs Department.

The award-giving ceremony and reception are free and open to the public.

Following their time at the International Museum of Art, the 100 photographs will travel to Austin, Texas to be displayed in the State's Capitol in early June, 2009.

Media Note: Parking for the press conference will be available behind the museum in a lot on the corner of E. Rio Grande Ave. and Brown St.

What: Office of Senator Shapleigh, YISD, EPISD to host "¡Ganas! Photo Fiesta"

When: Tuesday, May 5, 2009, 5:30 p.m.

Where: El Paso International Museum of Art, 1211 Montana Ave., El Paso, Texas 79902
([Map](#))

- End -

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