



***The House on Mango Street*, Sandra Cisneros**

2009 Conference Book Author

Sandra Cisneros is a novelist, poet, short story writer, and essayist whose work gives voice to working-class Latino and Latina life in America. Her lyrical writing explores the border between fiction and poetry, Spanish and English, “high” and popular culture.

Her novel *The House on Mango Street*, 1983, won the Before Columbus Foundation’s American Book Award in 1985, and is required reading in middle schools, high schools, and universities across the country. It has sold over two million copies since its initial publication and is still selling strongly.

Woman Hollering Creek and Other Stories (1991), a collection of short stories, was awarded the PEN Center West Award for Best Fiction of 1991, the Quality Paperback Book Club New Voices Award, the Anisfield-Wolf Book Award, the Lannan Foundation Literary Award, and was selected as a noteworthy book of the year by *The New York Times* and *The American Library Journal*, and nominated Best Book of Fiction for 1991 by *The Los Angeles Times*.

Cisneros is the author of three volumes of poetry: *Bad Boys*, 1980; *My Wicked Wicked Ways*, 1987; and *Loose Woman*, 1994, winner of the Mountains & Plains Booksellers’ Award. Other works include *Hairs/Pelitos*, 1994; a children’s book; *Caramelo*, 2002, a novel; and *Vintage Cisneros*, 2004, a compilation of her works.

In 1995 Cisneros was awarded the prestigious MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, and subsequently organized the Latino MacArthur Fellows, Los MacArturos, into a reunion focusing on community outreach. In 2003 she was awarded the Texas Medal of the Arts. In 2005 *Caramelo* was awarded the Premio Napoli and was short listed for the Dublin International IMPAC Award. *Caramelo* and *The House on Mango Street* have been selected for many One-City/One-Read projects across the country.

Other honors include: two fellowships, in both fiction and poetry, from the National Endowment for the Arts, 1982, 1987; honorary Doctor of Letters, from the State University of New York at Purchase and from Loyola University of Chicago; the Roberta Holloway Lectureship, the University of California, Berkeley, 1988; the Chicano Short Story Award, the University of Arizona, 1986; the Texas Institute of Letters’ Dobie-Paisano Fellowship, 1984; an Illinois Artists Grant, 1984. Cisneros’ books have been translated into more than a dozen languages.

She is the president and founder of the Macondo Foundation, an association of socially-engaged writers working to advance creativity, foster generosity, and serve community; and the Alfredo Cisneros Del Moral Foundation, a grant-giving institution serving Texas writers.

Born December 20th, 1954, in Chicago, Cisneros received her B.A. (1976) from Loyola University and her M.F.A. from The University of Iowa (1978). She has worked as a teacher to high school dropouts, a poet-in-the-schools, a college recruiter, an arts administrator, and as a visiting writer at a number of universities across the country.

Sandra Cisneros currently earns her living by her pen. She shares a home in San Antonio, Texas, with her partner, a filmmaker, and several animals, little and large. She is currently at work on several projects, including a collection of fiction titled *Infinito*.

During his term as director of the Center for Mexican American Studies at the University of Texas, Dr. Montejano was much involved with higher education public policy, especially in regards to university admissions. He is the intellectual author of the “Top Ten Percent Plan,” which the Texas Legislature enacted into law in 1997 in response to the end of affirmative action. Dr. Montejano has continued his involvement in higher education admissions at the University of California, Berkeley.