

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

The Loving Day Project Will Sponsor the Mixed Roots Film and Literary Festival at the Japanese American Museum in Los Angeles

New York, NY (May 29, 2008)

The Loving Day Project be a sponsor of the first annual Mixed Roots Film & Literary Festival being held from June 12 to 15, 2008, at the Japanese American National Museum in Los Angeles, CA. The festival will begin on June 12th in celebration of Loving Day, the day that the US Supreme Court's decision that made interracial marriages legal in the case of Loving v. Virginia was handed down

The Mixed Roots Film & Literary Festival will provide a stage for emerging storytellers to share narratives on mixed identity and the mixed experience to an audience who identify as mixed, members of a trans-racial/cultural adoptive families, and/or supporters of interracial/cultural relationships. According to the 2000 US Census, there are nearly 7 million Americans who identify themselves with their multiple heritages. In addition, the number of transracial adoptions has grown significantly, receiving unprecedented attention with recent celebrity adoptions. Despite this rapid increase, there is still a marked lack of awareness and attention on mixed identity and the mixed experience.

The festival is being held on June 12th in celebration of Loving Day, the day that the US Supreme Court's decision that made interracial marriages legal in the case of Loving v. Virginia was handed down. The Loving Day Project is also planning a nation-wide network of celebrations, including the nation's largest Loving Day Celebration in New York City on Sunday, June 8th from 3 – 7Pm at Solar 1, a "green" organization located on the East River waterfront on 23rd Street. This will be the 5th Anniversary of the Loving Day Celebration, and are expected to surpass the 1000 attendees from last year.

The Loving Day Project collaborates with and supports iPride, the Association of Multiethnic Americans (AMEA), Multigenerational Community Dialogue, Multiracial Americans of Southern California (MASC). The festival will begin with an address by award-winning writer Rebecca Walker and an opening night Loving Day Celebration, sponsored by the Loving Day Project with music provided by DJ Life and DJ Viska. Presenters include co-author of award-winning book *Hair Story: Untangling the Roots of Black Hair in America* and memoir *Kinky Gazpacho: Life, Love and Spain*, Lori L. Tharps; writer and producer Lesa Lakin; and award-winning performance, recording and media artist, Michelle-Mehri Mousavi.

Writer, podcaster, and lawyer Heidi Durrow, and actress, educator Fanshen Cox, the co-founders and co-producers of the Mixed Roots Festival will also be presenting at the festival. Author, academic and one of the world's premiere artist of Hapa identity Kip Fulbeck will be honored for his work exploring mixed identity and experience. For more information on this year's Loving Day events, please visit us online at:

About the Loving Day Project

Loving Day is about fighting prejudice through education, connecting cultures, and creating a sense of community among people that engage in meaningful intercultural relationships. The annual Loving Day celebrations commemorate Loving v. Virginia (1967), the Supreme Court case that legalized interracial relationships in America. The project uses digital media to provide educational resources and to encourage people nationwide to host their own celebrations on the Sunday closest to June 12th. Loving Day teaches people about the history of interracial couples in America. Loving Day Celebrations are an annual tradition that will one day make the Loving case a universally recognized civil rights landmark.

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