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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Ybor City Chamber to Hold 43rd Gala
SLT Creative Director to Receive Gonzmart Award**

(Tampa, FL October 15, 2008) The Ybor City Chamber of Commerce will hold its Annual Gala Friday, November 7th at the historic Columbia Restaurant. This will be the Chamber's 43rd Gala and the 15th presentation of the *Cesar Gonzmart Award*. This year the Ybor City Chamber will honor the founder and Artistic Director of the Spanish Lyric Theatre (SLT) Rene J. Gonzalez.

This year's Gala features a stylish black & white theme with music by well-known local band *Mainstream*. The evening will be emceed by former Mayor Dick Greco and kick-off with cocktails and a silent auction of Ybor's best goodies – wine, cigars, hotel stays, etc. This will be followed by an elegant filet dinner accompanied by salad and dessert, created just for this occasion, by the Columbia's Chef. After the award presentation, guests will dance to their "heart's content."

The Ybor Chamber's Annual Gala is a traditional cornerstone of the Latin social season in Tampa. "Our Chair of the Board, Joe Capitano, Jr. has made Gala a priority this year," said Tom Keating, President of the Chamber. It is our way of sharing an Ybor tradition with the greater community. This year's Platinum Sponsor is SunTrust Bank, a fixture on Ybor's historic La Sètima.

The Gonzmart Award is named after Cesar Gonzmart, patriarch of the Gonzmart family and the man credited with building the Columbia into Florida's oldest and the country's largest Spanish restaurant. This annual award recognizes an individual, family or corporation who distinguishes themselves through unique achievements to promote the cultural preservation and commercial revitalization of the Ybor Community.

Ybor City is the source of Tampa's Latin flavor and one of only two active National Historic Landmark Districts in Florida. For information on program ads and tickets please call Anna Ramos, Events Coordinator, 813/248-3712 x22.

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