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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Spring brings with it the spirit of freshness and renewal of colors, hope and celebration. The *2017 Holi festival*, organized by Jersey City's nonprofit SURATI for Performing Arts, on April 29<sup>th</sup> in the waterfront area of Exchange Place, Jersey City, will celebrate the essence of spring with throwing of vibrant colors, music, dancing, food, drink and cultural performances, fostering a sense of harmony and community.

This celebration of the Festival of Colors, in its 9<sup>th</sup> year, is expecting its largest turnout this year. Presented this year by &TV, the City of Jersey City, Hudson County Office of Cultural and Heritage Affairs and Jersey City Cultural Affairs, supporting sponsors are Air India, Indus American Bank, Indicooks, Urban Food Bazaar, HAB Bank, Lyft, Sahib restaurant (NYC), NJ Primary Care - Dr Deval Gadhvi, Hudson Montessori School and Poornima Creations. Community partner is Cry America.

The day will begin with cultural performances by children from the community, followed by an awakening of the senses with yoga by *Luis Lujan*. Amongst our featured performances are a thought-provoking theatrical performance by actresses from *In Full Color*, founded by playwright and director *Summer Dawn Hortillosa* and for lingering revelers performances by live bands, including the acoustic band *Eventually Epic*, that play across a spectrum of musical genres ranging from classic rock to Bollywood beats.

There will be music in the air – including live bands from various communities, solo performers such as the violinist *Swapna Patel*, Vocals by *Vidya Jatin Parekh*, Flamenco - Jazz by *Paloma De Vega*, signature Bollywood routines choreographed by *Abhishek Singhanian* and *Alisha Desai*, Veena by *Gopanand Srinivasarao*, Vocals by *Sujoy Haldar* and Indian classical Kathak dance by *Milini Vithanalage*. Stand-up comedy by *Ramki Muthukrishnan* promises to add mirth and laughter to the event.

Performers from the Surati professional and student team will present traditional and contemporary Indian dance and music forms. Master of ceremonies will be actress *Nayana Parsatoon* and DJ *Thomas* with *Bushwick Sound* by *Carlos*. The after-party will begin at 4 pm with live bands kicking off the mood for DJ and dancing.

The highlight of the Surati touring company would be a more modern medley of the *Rabindranath Tagore* song-dance genre with Western classical ballet, a tribute to the Spring Festival and the Nobel Laureate's 156<sup>th</sup> Birthday, specially choreographed and led by Surati Founder and Artistic Director, *Rimli Roy* and performers *Cinna Chandran* (Assistant Artistic Director), company dancers *Reba Browne*, *Vidhya Dinesh*, *Abhishek Singhanian*, *Paloma De Vega*, *Alisha Desai*, *Sahiba Ahluwalia*, *Shiva Prasad*, *Irene Sivianes*, *Elena Notkina*, *Kana Takahashi* and *Sarah Bialkin*.



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The festivities will begin at noon and continue up to 8 PM. Similar to the past celebrations, the event is expected to draw a large number of visitors from the tri state area. Visitors will also include dignitaries including the Indian ambassador to the USA Ms. Riva Ganguly Das, Assemblyman Raj Mukherji, the Mayor of Jersey City and other. Being mindful of the needs of the very young visitors, the event will include a children's play area, noise-free, on Grundy Pier, offering a quieter zone. While there is no dress code, wearing of white clothing is encouraged to highlight the vibrancy of the colors. Assorted colors of varying light scents that are unlikely to stain clothes and skin will be available at the festival.

The *Holi Hai* celebrations have always been energized by the enthusiastic participation of the diverse members of the tristate area dwellers and promises to be a joyful and fun event for all!