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RICANSTRUCTION: REMINISCING & REBUILDING PUERTO RICO – A COMICS ANTHOLOGY TO BENEFIT HURRICANE RELIEF IN PUERTO RICO - PROCEEDS TO BE AWARDED AS GRANTS SEPTEMBER 23, 2018

August 20, 2018 – **EDGARDO MIRANDA-RODRIGUEZ**, the graphic novelist behind the critically acclaimed **LA BORINQUEÑA** graphic novel series and the best-selling comics anthology benefit **RICANSTRUCTION: REMINISCING & REBUILDING PUERTO RICO** featuring iconic heroes **WONDER WOMAN, BATMAN, SUPERMAN, AQUAMAN, THE FLASH, HARLEY QUINN** with permission of **DC COMICS** will host the **RICANSTRUCTION GRANT AWARDS CEREMONY** on **SEPTEMBER 23, 2018** in **SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO**.

100% of the proceeds from the sales of **RICANSTRUCTION: REMINISCING & REBUILDING PUERTO RICO** goes towards a grants program that will award a \$10,000 grant to each of nine different grassroots organizations in Puerto Rico that have been working heroically in the recovery efforts and rebuilding of the island via programs for youth, women, community members, and the environment. To date, \$150,000 has been raised to help Puerto Rico via the **LA BORINQUEÑA GRANTS PROGRAM**. The first round of grants will be awarded to these distinguished recipients: **BOYS & GIRLS CLUB OF PUERTO RICO, MULTISENSORY READING CENTERS OF PUERTO RICO, MUJERES AYUDANDO MADRES, CORPORACION PIÑONES INTEGRAL, LA BRIGADA SOLIDARIA DEL OESTE, CORALATION, ASOCIACION RECREATIVA EDUCATIVA Y COMUNAL DE MARIANA, CREATIVE JUSTICE INITIATIVE, and EL PUENTE ENLACE LATINO ACCIÓN CLIMÁTICA**.

The continued sales of **RICANSTRUCTION: REMINISCING & REBUILDING PUERTO RICO** will provide additional proceeds that will go directly towards the **LA BORINQUEÑA GRANTS PROGRAM** for future grantees. These will be announced at a future date.

Featuring some of the most acclaimed names in the comic book industry – including **FRANK MILLER, GAIL SIMONE, GREG PAK, REGINALD HUDLIN, DENYS COWAN, KEN LASHLEY, BILL SIENKIEWICZ, YANICK PAQUETTE, GABBY RIVERA, WILL ROSADO, JORGE JIMENEZ, MIKE ALLRED, CHRIS SOTOMAYOR**, and more – **RICANSTRUCTION: REMINISCING & REBUILDING PUERTO RICO** is a collection of original stories that not only delve into the past and explore the beautiful history of Puerto Rico but also envision a stronger and rebuilt island.

In addition to a roster of comic book veterans, **RICANSTRUCTION: REMINISCING & REBUILDING PUERTO RICO** also contains stories from Puerto Rican and Latinx celebrities such as **ROSARIO DAWSON (Luke Cage), RUBÉN BLADES (Fear the Walking Dead), JAVIER MUÑOZ (Hamilton), KIRK ACEVEDO (Arrow), FREDDY RODRÍGUEZ (BULL), SONIA MANZANO (Sesame Street)**, and over 100 more!

RICANSTRUCTION: REMINISCING & REBUILDING PUERTO RICO is available for sale at **AMAZON, BARNES & NOBLE**, and comic books shops internationally. Wholesale orders are available via **DIAMOND COMIC DISTRIBUTORS** with distribution code **JAN189143**.

"I created my graphic novel series La Borinquena as a direct response the debt crisis affecting Puerto Rico to raise awareness to the humanitarian crisis affecting 3.5 million Puerto Ricans living on the island who are also American citizens. Less than a year after my first book's release Puerto Rico was hit by Hurricanes Maria and Irma, leaving the island in a black out for 11 months and a death toll of over 1,400. Dan Didio,

co-publisher of DC Comics and I met at the New York Comic Con where I asked him “What can we do for Puerto Rico?” He suggested I present him with a proposal to do an anthology. That meeting gave birth to RIKANSTRUCTION: Reminiscing & Rebuilding Puerto Rico. I was able to gather 150 contributors for this project and have my original character La Borinqueña written and illustrated by comic book giants like Frank Miller, Gail Simone, Greg Pak, Reginald Hudlin and many others. Rosario Dawson, herself a fan of La Borinqueña, wrote an original story that her uncle Gus Vazquez illustrated. Our hope with the success of this anthology is to continue to raise awareness to the millions of Puerto Ricans still in dire need of support. With 100% of the proceeds from this anthology we are distributing grants to nine heroic grassroots organizations in Puerto Rico. This project will bring awareness to how their work truly uplifts Puerto Rico. With our efforts we’ll directly help many communities, but I truly hope that this project inspires others to do more. To get involved. To start a movement. To truly be a part of the Ricanstruction of Puerto Rico.”

ABOUT EDGARDO MIRANDA-RODRIGUEZ

Edgardo Miranda-Rodriguez is the Creative Director and owner of the Brooklyn-based production and creative services studio, Somos Arte, which provides graphic novel production, web design/development, branding, key artwork and video production.

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