Cowboy Festival 2018 Event in Hart Mansion!

*By Alexandra Gooch, Friends of Hart Park director*

Come join what is sure to be a fun filled Friday night on April 20, 2018 at the William S. Hart Mansion, the Historic ‘La Loma de los Vientos’. The Friends of Hart Park’s annual fundraising event is being held on the evening of April 20th at this year’s Cowboy Festival! We are excited to announce the return of award-winning author and songwriter Jon Chandler accompanied by multi-instrumentalist Ernie Martinez. Tickets are limited and attendees will get a unique chance to experience the mansion after hours while enjoying live music in the mansion’s charming living room, followed by a cocktail reception with the artists on the majestic back patio. The cost is $80 and tickets are available at cowboyfestival.org/tickets which include entry, 2 drink tickets, and 3 raffle tickets.

Jon Chandler is a three time winner of the prestigious Spur Award from the Western Writers of America. In 2009 his song describing a fictional examination of the last hours of the notorious gunman Doc Holliday’s life, *Linwood*, won the Spur for Best Song. This was followed in 2012 with another Spur for his song *Morning Star Moon*. His novel The Spanish Peaks received the WWA’s Medicine Pipe Bearer Award (Spur Award) for Best First Novel, and he was named True West Magazine’s Best Western Musician. Wyoming Wind, A Novel of Tom Horn, was a finalist for the Colorado Book Award.

After enjoying the intimate performance, the patio will host a meet and greet with books and CDs available for purchase.

After parking in the lower Hart Hall parking lot, guests will be shuttled up the scenic hill past the Bunk House and American Bison outlook to the picturesque mansion backyard. Once guests have arrived they will be surrounded by the breathtaking night sky and the shimmering lights of the Santa Clarita Valley. Guests will be able to tour the mansion accompanied by knowledgeable volunteers and board members who will be available to answer questions, prior to and after the performance. Thanks to wonderful donors, a wine and beer bar will be open the hour before the performance as well as during the meet and greet. Throughout the evening guests will have a chance to purchase additional raffle tickets for the donated raffle items, and all winners will be announced at the end of the evening.

Annual events like the 2018 Cowboy Festival: An Evening with Jon Chandler and Ernie Martinez are the Friends of Hart Park’s main source of raising funds. The Friends of Hart Park mission is to provide personal and financial assistance to the L.A. County staff responsible for maintenance, preservation, exhibition, and interpretation of the Wm. S. Hart legacy and to provide an educational liaison with the community. All the proceeds from this event support the needs of the Park including maintaining 265 acres of grounds, all buildings including the historic Hart Mansion along with care and feeding of our menagerie of barnyard animals, and American Bison herd. There is no better way to help the Park while enjoying a unique and unforgettable evening in the historic William S. Hart Mansion!