



Dear Equestrian Community:

We would like to invite you to join the Chico Palio event taking place from 9 a.m.-3 p.m. **Saturday, September 26, 2009** at Chico's Municipal City Hall Parking Lot. Chico Palio is the official kick-off event for the 4th annual Aroberfest, which is a month-long Festival of Arts & Culture, occurring in the Month of October and featuring more than 130 events and performances.

“Palio” is an Italian word that means “competition between neighborhoods and communities.” Chico Palio is modeled after Italy's Siena Palio horse race. Instead of racing horses, we will race humans carrying horse sculptures. This competition will be in the form of pageantry, creativity and of course, a physical race. In addition to the race winner, competitions will feature the Best Designed Horse, Best Designed Flag, as well as a Horse-Art-in-the Schools program during the Month of September. Presenters of October arts and culture activities (Aroberfest) will share about their organizations, events and history.

As Palio grows, we'd like to add new events for people to enjoy and include as many communities as possible. Involving the equestrian community is a perfect match. This is your chance to introduce the wonders of horses to a larger non-horse community as well as promote your business or interest.

We are asking for your input, ideas and participation for events & activities to have at Chico Palio. This year, *Dances With Hooves* (a Paradise equestrian group) will proudly display Palio flags and open the Horse Sculpture race, along with the Chico Mounted Police Unit. Possible new ideas include an elegant horse parade, a leisurely ride in Bidwell Park or a cross-county race; we welcome any other suggestions! We would greatly appreciate the donation of your time, efforts and resources. We'd like to also continue the tradition of REAL horses in a festive, artsy environment! Thank you for your interest and support in making this a wonderful community event!

Sincerely,
Debra Lucero

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