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San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles

Museum of Quilt & Textiles Unveils New Home ***Innovative San José partnership upgrades historic downtown building***

San José --- The San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles will open the doors of its newly renovated facility at 520 South First Street on **Saturday, September 17, at 11:00 a.m.**

Master of Ceremonies Leigh Weimers will join San José Mayor Ron Gonzales and Vice Mayor Cindy Chavez for the ribbon-cutting ceremony for one of the top 10 cultural attractions in San José.

“The power of partnership has made the San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles a treasure for our entire community,” said Mayor Gonzales. “I’m proud that this beautiful new museum will be a national showcase for textile arts here in San José.”

The Museum of Quilts and Textiles worked with a group of private investors to purchase an historic building located in the South of First Street area (SoFA) to be the Museum’s permanent home. The San Jose Redevelopment Agency has provided the museum with a \$1,340,000 loan through its Commercial Building Loan Program to rehabilitate the building.

The building, built in 1923 as a construction supply store, has received extensive seismic and fire safety improvements, electrical upgrades, and new interior design. The renovated building is four times larger than the museum’s previous space at 110 Paseo de San Antonio in Downtown San José.

“The Museum of Quilts and Textiles provides one-of-a-kind exhibits for visitors Downtown,” said Vice Mayor Cindy Chavez. “I’m thrilled we are able to help them find a permanent home that will anchor the burgeoning arts district we have in SoFA.”

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The new facility includes a lobby, museum gift shop, three galleries, a classroom/event space, workspace for exhibit and collection preparation, and collection storage. Further expansion will include an upstairs area that is 2,400 square feet which will eventually house staff offices, a board room and research library.

An additional \$1.5 million invested in the project has been raised from a group of East Bay venture philanthropists, the Valley Foundation Capital Challenge, and numerous other corporate, foundation and individual donations.

“The grand opening and inaugural exhibition celebrate the museum’s roots, its traditions and its founders, a forward-thinking group of women who saw the need to create an institution that would raise the visibility of quilts and textiles as an art form, ” said Jane Przybysz, Executive Director, San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles. “This new permanent home will allow us to realize the museum’s potential to become a nationally significant exhibiting, teaching and collecting art institution.”

The grand opening celebration will feature public activities from noon to 4:30 p.m., including behind-the-scenes tours; gallery tours with Curator Robin Treen; educational presentations; hands-on textile art making; artist talk by Yvonne Porcella; demonstrations of a computerized loom; opportunities to meet artists whose work is featured in the museum store; live entertainment and refreshments; and raffle drawings

The museum and its store hours are from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Tuesday through Sunday. They are open until 8:00 p.m. on Thursday evenings, and closed Mondays and major holidays. Admission to the museum is \$5.00 general, \$4.00 seniors and students, free to museum members and children under 13. No admission is charged on the first Thursday of each month.

For more information, call (408) 971-0323, or visit the museum’s website at www.sjqultmuseum.org.

The San Jose Redevelopment Agency (SJRA) is dedicated to improving the quality of life for all who live and work in San José. Governed by the City Council, the SJRA facilitates and oversees comprehensive programs for development to revitalize the City’s Downtown, neighborhoods, and industrial areas.

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