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**Quilt Museum Celebrates Construction of New
Downtown San Jose Location**
Redevelopment Agency provides assistance

San José --- The San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles unveiled rendering plans for its new facility at a groundbreaking ceremony today.

Councilmembers Cindy Chavez and Forrest Williams, San Jose Downtown Association (SJDA) and San Jose Redevelopment Agency (SJRA) staff joined the executive director of the San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles and staff for the celebration.

Architect Kitty Myers from Hardison, Komatsu, Ivelich & Tucker, the firm that designed the new space, Steven H. Oliver, venture philanthropist and chairman of the board of San Francisco Museum of Modern Art, and Scott Knies, executive director of the San Jose Downtown Association were also present.

“We’re delighted to be partners with a creative museum and visionary investors to enrich the cultural life of our Downtown,” said Mayor Gonzales. “We expect this innovative funding solution will inspire other donors and arts groups to make dreams come true.”

The San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles partnered 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 building was built in 1923 as a construction supply store and will undergo extensive seismic work, electrical upgrades and installation of fire-rated walls and doors, as well as a new interior design. The new building is four times larger than the Museum’s current space, located at 110 Paseo de San Antonio in Downtown San José.

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San Jose Quilt Museum of Quilts & Textiles Celebration 2-2-2

“We recognize that the museum is the first of its kind in the nation, and the only California museum dedicated to promoting the art, craft, and history of quilts and textiles,” said Councilmember Cindy Chavez. “It plays an important role in weaving the social fabric of our community and as a cultural destination for San José.”

The new facility enables the museum to better serve the community with concurrent exhibitions and on-site educational programs. Anticipated improvements for the new 11,000-square-foot building include a lobby, gift shop, three galleries around an atrium, an event space with caterer’s kitchen, workspace for exhibit and collection preparation, collection storage, a classroom, six offices, an upstairs meeting room, and several small storage rooms.

“Through our loan and grant programs, we have partnered with various nonprofit arts group to help them thrive in Downtown San José,” said Harry Mavrogenes, executive director of the San Jose Redevelopment Agency. “We want to make sure that Downtown remains a vibrant arts and culture destination.”

The SJRA is providing the Quilt Museum with a \$1,340,000 loan through its Commercial Building Loan Program to rehabilitate the building. The no-interest loan is structured consistent with the terms of the SJRA’s Retail, Entertainment, and Arts Loan and will be forgiven at a rate of 10 percent annually, or 100 percent if the museum stays in its new location for 10 years.

Other funding includes \$500,000 in private investment from a group of East Bay venture philanthropists who will match what the Museum raises towards the \$1,400,000 building purchase price; a \$25,000 Capital Challenge grant from the Valley Foundation, and \$395,000 in other individual, foundation, guild, and corporate pledges.

“We have joined forces with East Bay venture philanthropists headed by Steven H. Oliver to forge a new entrepreneurial model for how non-profit arts organizations can own their facilities and control their financial futures,” said Jane Przybysz, the museum’s executive director. “This model requires that an arts organization and investors be equal financial partners in the corporation that owns and leases the building back to the non-profit arts group.”

The museum and museum Store are open at its current location. Hours are 10:00 am to 5:00 pm, Tuesday through Sunday; open until 8:00 on Thursday evenings; closed Mondays, major holidays and during installations. Admission to the museum is: \$5.00 general, \$4.00 seniors & students, free to museum members and children under 13. No admission is charged on the first Thursday of each month. For more information, please call 408-971-0323 or visit the museum’s website at www.sjqiltmuseum.org.

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San Jose Quilt Museum of Quilts & Textiles Celebration 3-3-3

The San Jose Redevelopment Agency 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. For more information about the SJRA, visit www.sjredevelopment.org.

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