

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Peace Monument Proposed for San José – Community Meeting Introduced Monument Honoring Unity, Peace, and Belonging

San José, CA — A visionary new public monument may soon rise in downtown San José, offering a lasting symbol of peace, empathy, and collective hope. The **Peace Monument**, proposed by Diane Brandenburg in collaboration with local leaders, educators, and artists, was unveiled to the public at a community meeting on May 7, 2025.

Located at Confluence Point, where the Guadalupe River and Los Gatos Creek meet, the monument is designed as a gift to future generations, a space for reflection, education, and inspiration. Renowned sculptor Mario Chiodo, known for his large-scale works commemorating human resilience and justice, presented the artistic vision alongside landscape architect Chris Kent, who shared how the piece will be integrated into the natural setting.

The evening also featured remarks from Michael Lomio (Office of Mayor Matt Mahan) and Kimberly Mulcahy, project coordinator and longtime community advocate. Following the presentations and a dialogue session to gather community feedback, attendees walked together to the proposed monument site.

“This monument is more than a work of art, it’s a beacon of hope and a space to affirm our shared humanity,” said Mulcahy. “We invite the San José community to help shape the site and programming around this legacy.”

The Peace Monument will feature a central figure holding a dove and olive branch, surrounded by seven figures—six children representing each inhabited continent and a penguin for Antarctica—symbolizing a global call to peace. The monument will incorporate cultural symbols from around the world, forming a powerful expression of shared humanity. It will also include educational elements and spaces designed for public engagement. The monument will be thoughtfully integrated into the site alongside existing landmarks, including a tribute to the Ohlone people, San José’s Vietnam War veterans, and sculptures celebrating childhood joy.

Private gifts like this are a unique opportunity to enhance a city’s public art landscape, bringing vision, beauty, and meaning to civic spaces without drawing on public funds. This privately funded project is committed to following all city-required processes, including the establishment of a \$500,000 endowment to ensure long-term maintenance and stewardship.

To learn more, contact:

Kimberly Mulcahy

kimberlycgmulcahy@gmail.com