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For immediate release

Rotary Club of San Jose to Partner with Diane Brandenburg on Peace Monument

The membership of the Rotary Club of San Jose voted today to join local philanthropist Diane Brandenburg in bringing the Mario Chiodo-designed Seeds of Peace Monument to Arena Green West, adjacent to the SAP Center. The art piece was unanimously accepted by the San Jose City Council on October 7.

Rotary Club of San Jose President Matt Braker said that the proposal was approved overwhelmingly by the members, adding “we’re thrilled to partner with Diane Brandenburg on this project; she and her late husband Lee have been so generous to our community.”

Rotary Club of San Jose Foundation President Audrey Fox noted, “Rotary International’s number one focus area is promoting peace, so Mrs. Brandenburg couldn’t have brought us a better project.”

The Rotary Club of San Jose anticipates forming an ongoing Rotary Peace Committee to produce curriculum, program performances, and cultivate a space for reflection.

Rather than produce the project on her own, Mrs. Brandenburg sought to engage a community partner that could strengthen the impact of the monument, so she approached the Rotary Club of San Jose. She said, “Rotary has been a wonderful champion for San Jose and has a great reputation for getting things done.”

Mrs. Brandenburg is covering the \$2 million fee for the sculptor’s design and the monument’s fabrication. The Rotary Club of San Jose Foundation will be raising an additional \$1.5 million to create a civic arrival and gathering space worthy of the artwork’s meaning, add lighting, sound, and visibility that activate the site day and night, build a landscaped setting that invites the public to connect, support installation, placement, and safety infrastructure, and introduce donor recognition and design features that share the story of community leadership.

Installation is anticipated for late Fall 2026.

Donations can be sent to RCSJ Foundation (EIN 94-6112270), 1690 Senter Rd, San Jose, CA 95112

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About the Rotary Club of San Jose:

Founded in 1914, the Rotary Club of San Jose is a key service organization with a century of community impact, including contributions to infrastructure and support for over 280 local organizations. It is the seventh largest rotary club in the US. More information is available at www.sjrotary.org.