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Contact:
Helen Duong, (408) 795-1807
helen.duong@sanjoseca.gov
San Jose Redevelopment Agency

**San Jose Redevelopment Agency to Assist
Works/San José Gallery Expansion**
Project is a partnership between the arts and Redevelopment

San José ---The San Jose Redevelopment Agency Board unanimously approved an agreement that will allow Works/San José to expand and relocate to its new downtown home in the South of First Area (SoFA) District.

The Owner Participation Agreement calls for the Redevelopment Agency to supplement rent payments totaling \$190,000 to the building owner while Works/San José Gallery occupies the building at 451 South First Street.

“We’re continuing our steady progress that has made downtown San Jose an exciting regional destination for culture,” said San Jose Mayor Ron Gonzales. “Our partnership with Works/San José is an excellent example of our creative solutions that result in benefits for our entire community.”

Founded in 1977 by local artists, Works/San José is a grass-roots volunteer-managed not-for-profit organization that offers a unique range of opportunities that allows artists, curators, and the community to showcase ideas and images that challenge the boundaries of contemporary art.

“Arts groups are a critical component in downtown's growing role as the innovation and cultural centers of the south bay,” said Councilmember Cindy Chavez. “Works/San José has been a wonderful part of that growth in past years and this investment will cement its participation in the years ahead.”

The Gallery’s new 4,900-square-foot site once served as the former home to the San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art Gallery. Works/San José is relocating from its current home at 30 North Third Street to join museums, galleries, theaters, restaurants and nightclubs in the SoFA District, a premier destination for arts and entertainment.

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“Works is known for presenting diverse and unexpected exhibitions, so we are thrilled to be joining the burgeoning creative community of the SOFA district,” said Erin Pannu, President of the Board of Directors of Works/San José.

Works/San José is one of many arts projects that the Agency funds in the SoFA District. Other recent or planned Agency investments include the newly renovated historic California Theatre; grants to City Lights Theater Company, MACLA, San Jose Quilt and Textile Museum, and San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art; improvements to the streetscape on South First Street between San Carlos and William Streets; and the high-rise housing and retail “360 Residences” project.

“The Redevelopment Agency's investment in bringing seasoned visual arts organizations to San Jose's arts and entertainment district on South First Street is a wise use of tax dollars,” said Jane Przybysz, Executive Director, San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles. “The prospect of having Works/San José join the five visual arts organizations that already have a presence on South First Street is tremendously exciting.”

Works/San José gallery hours are from noon to 4:00 pm., Tuesday through Saturday, and noon to 7:00 p.m. Thursday. Closed Mondays and major holidays. Admission to the gallery is free. For more information, please call 408-295-8378 or go to the gallery's website at www.workssanjose.org.

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 Agency facilitates and oversees comprehensive programs for development to revitalize and strengthen quality of life and competitiveness for San Jose's downtown, neighborhoods, and industrial areas.

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