



The Walt Disney Family Museum Presents
Fresh Starts

Featuring the artistic self-expression of young men in Bay Area juvenile detention centers
THE MUSEUM'S THIRD ANNUAL COMMUNITY ACCESS EXHIBITION

San Francisco, August 1, 2018—The Walt Disney Family Museum is pleased to announce its next Community Access Exhibition, *Fresh Starts*, on view from September 26, 2018 to January 7, 2019. The exhibition will present juried artworks created by incarcerated youth in art-making sessions facilitated by museum staff on site at three different juvenile detention centers in the greater San Francisco Bay Area: Camp Wilmont Sweeney in Alameda County, The Log Cabin Ranch of San Francisco Unified School District, and Hillcrest School (part of the Court Schools of San Mateo). The exhibition is offered free to the public to allow everyone the opportunity to view the artwork.

Fresh Starts was inspired by the story of Mickey Mouse—the iconic character who celebrates his 90th anniversary this year. For Walt Disney, Mickey Mouse signified a fresh start after losing Oswald the Lucky Rabbit to Universal Studios. As Walt famously said: “It was all started by a mouse.” Visitors to the museum learn that Walt’s challenges, including bankrupting his first company at just 22 years old, informed his life and legacy. For the incarcerated youth artists who participated in the museum’s *Fresh Starts* exhibition, Walt’s story of failure leading to success served as a source of inspiration.

In preparation for the exhibition, museum educators, over a four-month period, regularly visited the three detention center partners to offer ongoing instruction and support in storytelling, storyboarding, animation, painting, collage, and additional artistic techniques. This intensive process was designed to encourage participants—all young men—to develop and explore new identities beyond their incarceration.¹ The artists were coached to define themselves not by their time in juvenile hall and the potential missteps that brought them there, but instead by their artistic talent and new skills.

“I’m personally thrilled to be able to partner with these centers and the young people they serve, all of whom are men and the vast majority of whom are people of color. It’s exciting to see their stories come alive on the canvas,” said Antonia Dapena-Tretter, School and Outreach Manager for the museum, who also curated the exhibition and facilitated the art-making activities. “Our goal is to have our visitors leave with respect and empathy for the creativity and expression of these young men after being exposed to their artwork.”

Fresh Starts offers these talented young men opportunities for self-expression, while the hands-on methods utilized in the classroom also aim to raise their quality of life during the rehabilitation process. Ms. Evette Ascani, a teacher at the San Mateo Court Schools, relayed this inspiring anecdote: “The other day, a student who has been participating in The Walt Disney Family Museum outreach program at our facility stopped me and said: ‘I want to thank you for bringing the Disney Museum teachers here. I feel

¹ According to the California Department of Justice, 84% of youth arrests (ages 10 to 17) are males, and 77% are African American or Latino.

so alive when I am doing artwork and the good feeling lasts for a few days. Thank you!” This student's work, along with approximately fifty others, will be on view in the museum's lower lobby gallery. Initials, rather than full names, will be used to respect the privacy of the participating minors.

Fresh Starts will kick-off with a private artist reception catered by Oakland-based The Town Kitchen on September 25, 2018. “We are so pleased to partner with The Walt Disney Family Museum in support of this important exhibition,” said Eric Quick, CEO of The Town Kitchen. “Providing outlets to empower and instill resiliency for at-risk youth is the key to long-term personal and community impact.”

Fresh Starts is the museum's third annual Community Access Exhibition, inspired by the vision of the museum's founder, Diane Disney Miller, who championed arts access as a vital component of the museum's commitment to community engagement. In 2016, the museum presented *Transformations: Creativity from the Inside Out*, celebrating artists with disabilities, and in 2017, the museum exhibited works by underserved seniors as a part of *Looking Inward: Painting a Journey*.

ABOUT THE WALT DISNEY FAMILY MUSEUM

The Walt Disney Family Museum presents the fascinating story and achievements of Walt Disney, the man who raised animation to the level of fine art, transformed the film industry, tirelessly pursued innovation, and created a global yet distinctively American legacy. Opened in October 2009, the 40,000-square-foot facility features the newest technology along with a vast collection of historic materials and artifacts to bring Disney's achievements to life, myriad interactive galleries presenting early drawings and animation, movies, music, listening stations, a spectacular model of Disneyland, and much more. The museum is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization located in the scenic Presidio of San Francisco.

The Walt Disney Family Museum has created many world-class exhibitions, such as *Walt Disney's Nine Old Men: Masters of Animation*; *Disney and Dalí: Architects of the Imagination*; *MAGIC, COLOR, FLAIR: The World of Mary Blair*; and *Water to Paper, Paint to Sky: The Art of Tyrus Wong*, several of which have traveled to other museums around the world. The most recent, *Fresh Starts*, is the 24th original exhibition organized by the museum since 2012, and will be on view from September 26, 2018 to January 7, 2019 in the museum's lower lobby gallery.

ABOUT THE TOWN KITCHEN

The Town Kitchen (TTK) is a public benefit corporation headquartered in Oakland that creates community through local food, by training and connecting low-income, at-risk youth to local chefs and selling high-quality, healthy and locally sourced meals to corporate clients. TTK's mission is to create a self-sustainable solution to chronic unemployment and its side effects within urban communities. Through fair-wage employment, entrepreneurial training, and on-site case management, transitional-aged urban youth are given a pathway to impact their future and communities, alike. For more information, please visit thetownkitchen.com.

Hours: Open Wednesday through Monday: 10am to 6pm, last entry at 4:45pm. Closed on Tuesdays and the following public holidays: January 1, Thanksgiving Day, and December 25. Early closure at 4pm on December 24 and December 31.

Tickets: Admission to *Fresh Starts* is free to the public
General admission ticket: \$25 adults, \$20 seniors & students, \$15 youth (ages 6 to 17)
Museum admission is free for members and children under 5

Where: The Presidio of San Francisco, 104 Montgomery Street, San Francisco, CA 94129

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