



The Walt Disney Family Museum Presents
A Powerful Force: Working to End Homelessness Through Art
THE MUSEUM'S FOURTH ANNUAL COMMUNITY ACCESS EXHIBITION
September 25, 2019–January 6, 2020

San Francisco, September 13, 2019—The Walt Disney Family Museum is pleased to announce its 2019 community access exhibition, *A Powerful Force: Working to End Homelessness Through Art*. Featuring original artwork created by young people experiencing homelessness, the exhibition's title was inspired by Walt Disney himself: "There is great comfort and inspiration in this feeling of close human relationships and its bearing on our mutual fortunes—a powerful force to overcome the tough breaks which are certain to come for most of us from time to time."

A Powerful Force will feature artworks created by homeless youth with three greater San Francisco Bay Area partner organizations: Raphael House, Larkin Street Youth Services, and Youth Spirit Artworks. These nonprofit organizations help at-risk youth and their families achieve independence by providing career-building skills, educational programs, and safe housing.

"This project is a powerful force because it brings together community organizations that are making a great difference for a population that needs it," says *A Powerful Force* curator, Antonia Dapena-Tretter. "Through its global audience, The Walt Disney Family Museum has the rare ability to raise exposure of some of our community's most vulnerable residents."

Many of the artworks featured in this exhibition were created over a four-month period, with Dapena-Tretter and The Walt Disney Family Museum's School and Outreach team providing free, on-site educational art programming for participating youth, ages 6 to 25. Over 35 students were encouraged to tell their stories and personal journeys through their work—some of which was also created outside of the museum workshops—offering them a platform for self-expression, growth, and connection.

Celebrating its tenth anniversary this year, a fundamental component of The Walt Disney Family Museum's mission has been to foster creative growth and offer personalized educational programs for the next generation of artists. "*A Powerful Force* is fourth in an annual exhibition series that takes inspiration from the vision of our museum's founder and Walt Disney's daughter, Diane Disney Miller, who championed arts access as a vital component of the museum's ongoing commitment to community engagement," says Kirsten Komoroske, Executive Director of The Walt Disney Family Museum. "We are proud and honored to provide a space for underrepresented members of our local community to showcase their artwork, while highlighting the work and accomplishments of three impressive social impact organizations."

During the most recent 2017 California count, 15,458 young people up to age 24 were found to be homeless and unaccompanied in the state. California alone accounted for approximately one-fifth of all homeless public school students in the U.S. in 2017 and has ranked 48th of the 50 states in success on issues of child homelessness.

A Powerful Force will be on view from September 25, 2019 through January 6, 2020 at The Walt Disney Family Museum. This unique exhibition will be offered free to the public, ensuring that the opportunity to view the diverse collection of work is open to everyone.

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 innovative technology alongside a vast collection of historic materials and artifacts that bring Disney's achievements to life. There is a myriad of interactive galleries, which present 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 *Disney and Dalí: Architects of the Imagination*; *MAGIC, COLOR, FLAIR: The World of Mary Blair*; *Water to Paper, Paint to Sky: The Art of Tyrus Wong*; *Walt Disney's Nine Old Men: Masters of Animation*; and *Mickey Mouse: From Walt to the World*, several of which have traveled to other museums around the world. The most recent, *A Powerful Force: Working to End Homelessness Through Art*, is the 26th original exhibition organized by the museum since 2012, and will be on view from September 25, 2019 through January 6, 2020 in the museum's Lower Lobby Gallery.

- 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 September 27, October 10, December 24 and December 31, 2019.
- Tickets:** Admission to *A Powerful Force* 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
- Contact:** 415.345.6800 | waltdisney.org
- Follow:** [facebook.com/wdfmuseum](https://www.facebook.com/wdfmuseum) | Twitter & Instagram: @wdfmuseum
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