

The Walt Disney Family Museum's 5th Community Outreach Exhibition
Healing In Color
March 25 – August 24, 2020

San Francisco, CA | January 30, 2020 — The Walt Disney Family Museum is pleased to announce its fifth Community Outreach Exhibition, *Healing In Color*, showcasing artworks created by children receiving cancer treatment at two Bay Area hospitals. Walt Disney once said that “fantasy and reality often overlap.” The young artists whose works will be on display as part of this exhibition have been encouraged to explore this intersection of fantasy and reality. Making use of a variety of materials, their artworks express a common dream for a bright future using bold colors and textures. *Healing In Color* will be on view in an accessible gallery and will be free to all visitors from March 25 through August 24, 2020.

Through its partnership with the Kids & Art Foundation, the museum worked with cancer patients from two local children's hospitals, UCSF Benioff Children's Hospital San Francisco and Lucile Packard Children's Hospital Stanford. Both institutions rank among the nation's best in all ten specialties assessed by the 2019–2020 *U.S. News & World Report* annual survey of children's hospitals, reflecting the high quality of care available to patients in Northern California. Children treated at pediatric institutions that provide specialized treatment in combination with supportive care, such as art workshops, are more likely to have positive outcomes.

The Walt Disney Family Museum educators, working in tandem with artists and staff from the Kids & Art Foundation, employ the unique power of art to support a holistic approach to healing. Art workshops introduce participating youths to storytelling and therapeutic art-making techniques themed on the inspirational and colorful work of legendary Disney artist and animator Mary Blair.

Blair is well known as one of Walt Disney's most original and influential designers and art directors, with her vibrant designs and exuberant color palette enduring in classic Disney animated films such as *Cinderella* (1950), *Alice in Wonderland* (1951), and *Peter Pan* (1953). Blair designed the “*it's a small world*” attraction in 1964, a classic and beloved attraction at Disneyland. She was also personally invited by Walt Disney to create a ceramic tile mural for the pediatric surgery waiting room in his friend's clinic, the Jules Stein Eye Clinic at UCLA, in 1966. The mural features characters from “*it's a small world*,” welcoming and soothing children and families with whimsical composition and colors.

“We are honored to partner with the Kids & Art Foundation on *Healing In Color* and to support the voices and talents of the artists represented in this exhibition,” says Kirsten Komoroske, Executive Director of The Walt Disney Family Museum. “The work and initiatives of Kids & Art brings awareness to the positive impact art can have on children in challenging circumstances.”

“Kids & Art Foundation is thrilled to be a part of The Walt Disney Family Museum's Community Outreach Exhibition for 2020,” says Suzanne Yau, Executive Director of Kids & Art. “The opportunity for our pediatric oncology families to learn from and create with the museum's educators and artists has been truly magical. We are deeply grateful to have the support of such a recognized institution that epitomizes the power of imagination and creativity. Thank you for believing in Kids & Art's mission to heal cancer through art.”

The Kids & Art Foundation is a nonprofit organization that provides arts workshops to children with cancer and their care circles to improve their well-being during treatment, as survivors, and in bereavement. In California, it is estimated that more than 1,700 children ages zero to 19 are diagnosed with cancer each year. Approximately one in every 265 children in the state will develop some form of cancer before they reach age 20.

Healing In Color is the fifth in a series of Community Outreach Exhibitions 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.

ABOUT KIDS & ART

The Kids & Art Foundation is a nonprofit organization that provides arts workshops to children with cancer and their care circles to improve their well-being during treatment, as survivors, and in bereavement. Kids & Art teams up professional artists with families facing pediatric cancer for free art workshops at treatment centers and unique destinations for creativity. Together they use art as healing to empower, encourage, and create memorable experiences. More info at kidsandart.org.

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, *Healing in Color*, is the 28th original exhibition organized by the museum since 2012, on view from March 25 through August 24, 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.

Tickets: Admission to *Healing In Color* 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

Media Contact: Caroline Quinn | Senior Communications Coordinator
415.345.6854
press@wdfmuseum.org

###