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Photos available upon request

CROSS-BORDER COLLABORATION BRINGS SOARING ART PROJECT TO ARTS DISTRICT LIBERTY STATION

Birds without Paradise Created by Area Schoolchildren

SAN DIEGO, December 19, 2018 — The bird of paradise is known as the ultimate symbol of paradise and freedom. This January, nearly 350 birds created by schoolchildren from seven schools will be displayed at ARTS DISTRICT Liberty Station as part of a unique cross-border art exchange.

The project is a collaboration between Vesta, a Mexico-based industrial real estate developer, the San Diego Unified School District, the NTC Foundation and the San Diego-Tijuana Smart Border Coalition. The *Birds without Paradise* installation will be inaugurated on January 11. A similar installation premiered in Tijuana above Calle Segunda, from Constitución to Madero, in the center of the city's downtown earlier this year. The project is being presented as a binational program to promote cooperation in the CaliBaja Mega-Region.

"The NTC Foundation and ARTS DISTRICT Liberty Station are pleased to partner with Vesta, the San Diego Unified School District and the San Diego-Tijuana Smart Border Coalition to bring Manuel Molina's *Birds without Paradise* art installation to San Diego," said Alan Ziter, NTC Foundation Executive Director. "We're especially excited by the school partnership to have San Diego students create the birds. Building on the success of last year's *El Universal: 100 Years in the Life of Mexico and the World*, our creative campus is again home to an art installation that helps strengthen the interrelationship between our binational communities."

Birds without Paradise is created with indigenous materials, including corn husks, and decorated with brilliant colors by 350 schoolchildren with the participation of their teachers in seven schools. The activities, led by the artist Manuel Molina, have taken place on both sides of the border, with the participation of more than 800 children and volunteers in total. The birds will hang in the ARTS DISTRICT's Luce Court for four weeks, ending on February 8. Participating schools include Correia Middle School, Creative Performing and Media Arts Middle School, Marshal Middle School, Muirlands Middle School, Montgomery Middle School, School for Creative and Performing Arts and Wilson Middle School.

"Smart Border Coalition is proud to support this creative and symbolic art project to unite our cross-border community," explained Gustavo De La Fuente, Executive Director, San Diego-Tijuana Smart Border Coalition. The Coalition, located at Liberty Station, works as a catalyst to bring together leading governmental, academic, business and civic communities from both



sides of the San Diego-Tijuana region. The initiative was originally created by the artist Manuel Molina, from Oaxaca, to raise awareness about the importance of stopping bird trafficking; however, the project has been transformed into an integrated binational program based on the concept of freedom. In this way, cooperation for prosperity is achieved through creativity and knowledge exchange.

Lorenzo Berho, Chairman of Vesta's Board, said, "The supreme human value is freedom, and what better way to have it expressed than by children, who show us the possibilities for the future with a clean and creative point of view in an innocent and sustainable proposal? We are proud and grateful for the *esprit de corps* that has been shown in order to bring together, even more, our two communities on both sides of the border."

***Birds without Paradise* Installation Process**

January 8, 9 and 10, 2875 Dewey Road, Point Loma

Opening Reception

January 11, 2019, 6:00pm

Luce Court (across from The LOT, beyond the Galinson Family Fountain)

Quotes from Participating Teachers

"This project was not only really fun for me and my students, but it offered my students a chance to share their creativity and contribute to an art installation that is bigger than themselves. Having the opportunity to collaborate with Manuel Molina helped make this project relevant and meaningful for all students who participated."

-Suzanne Long, Correia Middle School

"Every teacher hopes to have a project that integrates the display of art beyond the classroom walls. As art teachers, we encourage our students to think outside the box and help them understand how their work can impact the world around them. This was a great opportunity for students to see first-hand how an artist can communicate an idea through sculpture and installation. My students enjoyed being a part of something bigger, and we enjoyed taking them through the process. This will be an experience that they will remember for years!"

-Laura McDonald, Marshall Middle School

"This has been a terrific experience and opportunity for my art students! Projects like this build community, confidence, and attention to important issues. This collaborative work demonstrates that art can be expressive and beautiful, and at the same time be activism and voice — a change agent in one's heart and in the larger society!"

-Patricia Cox, Muirlands Middle School



ARTS DISTRICT LIBERTY STATION

About ARTS DISTRICT Liberty Station

ARTS DISTRICT Liberty Station is San Diego's largest Arts & Cultural District located in historic buildings at the former Naval Training Center in the Liberty Station neighborhood, near Downtown on San Diego Bay. With 100 park-like acres, the ARTS DISTRICT is home to nearly 120 museums and galleries, artist studios, dance companies, fine dining, creative retail and other organizations that showcase San Diego's creative community and provide innovative experiences for the public. www.artsdistrictlibertystation.com

About NTC Foundation

NTC Foundation was established in 2000 as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit to enrich the lives of San Diegans by renovating this signature community asset and creating, facilitating, and operating ARTS DISTRICT as a 100-acre creative district. Visitors experience the arts, culture, creativity, and cuisine that are the hallmarks of the San Diego region and enjoy innovative experiences in a historic setting at Liberty Station that inspire lives for generations to come.

www.ntcfoundation.org

About the San Diego Unified School District



San Diego Unified serves more than 121,000 students in pre-school through grade 12 and is the second largest district in California. The student population is extremely diverse, representing more than 15 ethnic groups and more than 60 languages and dialects.

Since its founding on July 1, 1854, the district has grown from a small, rented school building with one teacher to its current size—more than 226 educational facilities with 13,559 employees. Nearly 6,000 teachers are in classrooms at the district's various educational facilities, which include 117 traditional elementary schools, 9 K-8 schools, 24 traditional middle schools, 22 high schools, 49 charter schools, 13 atypical/alternative schools and 5 additional program sites.

The San Diego Unified School District is proud to call itself one of the top large urban school districts in the United States. Measures include its top scores on state and national tests, its leadership in areas such as technology, curriculum, neighborhood and specialty schools, career-technical education and food services. Its graduates include Hall of Fame sports stars, along with some of the nation's top scientists, writers and leaders.



ARTS DISTRICT LIBERTY STATION

About Vesta



Vesta is a real estate owner, developer and asset administrator of industrial buildings and distribution centers in Mexico. As of September 30th, 2018, Vesta owned 180 properties located in modern industrial parks in 14 states of Mexico totaling a GLA of 28.9 sf (2.6 million m²). The Company has multinational clients, which are focused in industries such as aerospace, automotive, food and beverage, logistics, medical devices, and plastics, among others. Vesta has been in Baja California since 2005 and has 57 properties with a gross leasable area of 5.1 million sf (1.95 million m²). For additional information visit: www.vesta.com.mx.

About San Diego-Tijuana Smart Border Coalition



SMART BORDER COALITION™
SAN DIEGO-TIJUANA

The San Diego-Tijuana Smart Border Coalition is a non-profit, nonpartisan and binational organization that advocates for more efficient border crossings for pedestrians, vehicles, cargo and rail since 2007. Approximately 130,000 vehicles, 80,000 pedestrians and 7,000 trucks cross our border every day, making us the busiest regional land ports of entry in the world. The Coalition has two principles: first, trade and security are not mutually exclusive; second, it is essential to innovate at the border by using technology and reengineering to create, improve and complement our ports and adjoining areas. For additional information please visit: www.smartbordercoalition.com.

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