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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Downtown Doors and Dr. Jerry Awards Honor Rising Talent

San Jose Downtown Association and San Jose Museum of Art celebrate student artists

SAN JOSE, CA (May 27, 2025)— The San Jose Downtown Association's Downtown Doors Reception returned with an exciting new collaboration. For the first time ever, the event was hosted in partnership with the San Jose Museum of Art to jointly recognize winners of the Dr. Jerry Next Gen Awards 2025 — uniting two of the downtown's leading youth art initiatives under one inspiring evening.

Held at the Museum, the reception honored 20 talented student artists whose original works are now featured as part of the Downtown Doors 2025 public art exhibition — transforming doors and utility boxes across downtown San Jose into bold, thought-provoking displays of youth creativity.

"Downtown Doors continues to give young artists a platform to be seen, to be celebrated, and to be part of the urban landscape," said Gumby Marques, Interim CEO of the San Jose Downtown Association.

Also speaking at the event were District 3 Councilmember Carl Salas, who praised the program for bringing color, creativity, and youthful energy to downtown; San Jose Museum of Art Executive Director Sayre Batton, and San Jose Downtown Foundation Trustee Jeanne Serpa, each reflecting on the importance of public art and community investment in youth.

Visit the 2025 student installations using the interactive map.

Support for this empowering program can be provided through donations or by purchasing Downtown Doors Note Card Packs at the San José Museum of Art Store.

We gratefully acknowledge our 2025 supporters: Baker Tilly, SVCreates, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, The Knight Foundation, Adobe, Ernest and Irene Pestana Charitable Foundation, American Online Giving Foundation, The City of San Jose, Councilmember Peter Ortiz, El Cafecito Mezcal Restaurant, Republic Services, and Bay Print Solutions.

This year's Downtown Doors Reception not only honored creativity — it built community. By highlighting youth voices in the heart of the city, downtown San Jose continues to celebrate the power of public art and the bright future ahead.

Visit sjdowntown.com/downtown-doors for more details about the program.

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About San Jose Downtown Association (SJDA): The San Jose Downtown Association is a membership-based nonprofit organization created in 1986 to provide marketing, advocacy, public art, and clean and

safe initiatives on behalf of 2,000+ member businesses and property owners in Downtown San Jose. SJDA's mission is to support the members' vision of a vibrant Downtown San Jose for everyone.