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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Downtown Doors and Dr. Jerry Awards Honor Rising Talent

San Jose Downtown Foundation honors student artists in 23rd year of Downtown Doors and second year of combined reception with Dr. Jerry Hiura Next Gen Visual Artist Awards

SAN JOSE, CA (May 28, 2026) – The San Jose Downtown Association, in partnership with the San José Museum of Art, will host the 2026 Downtown Doors & Dr. Jerry Hiura Next Gen Visual Artist Award Ceremony this evening from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m at San José Museum of Art.

The event honors 20 outstanding high school student artists featured in the Downtown Doors 2026 public art exhibition, whose original works are displayed on doors and utility boxes throughout Downtown San Jose, alongside 3 recipients of the Dr. Jerry Hiura Next Gen Visual Artist Awards. Now in its second year, this combined reception brings two of downtown's premier youth art initiatives together under one roof, giving guests the chance to see the students' work firsthand and hear them share the vision behind it. Their incredible work will be on display throughout downtown San Jose starting Friday, May 29.

“Public art transforms how we experience a city, and when it comes from the young people who call this community home, it becomes extraordinary.” said Jeanne Serpa, Board Chair of the San Jose Downtown Foundation. “Downtown Doors turns our streets into a gallery and our students into visionaries for San Jose's future."

District 3 Councilmember Anthony Tordillos will also share remarks on the value of public art, the positive impact the two programs have on the community, and the Foundation’s commitment to supporting the next generation of artists.

Visit the 2026 student installations using the interactive map.

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

The San Jose Downtown Foundation gratefully acknowledges its 2026 supporters: The City of San José, Hotel De Anza, Adobe Inc., San José Museum of Art, Ernest and Irene Pestana Charitable Foundation, Inc., Republic Services, West Coast Community Bank, El Cafecito by Mezcal, American Online Giving Fund, City of San José District 3 Councilmember Anthony Tordillos, Silicon Valley Community Foundation, San Jose Downtown Foundation Trustees, Robert Lindo, Dan Cicero, and William Schmidt.

By spotlighting youth voices in the heart of the city, the Downtown Doors & Dr. Jerry Award Ceremony continues to demonstrate the power of public art to inspire, connect, and strengthen the community. Downtown San Jose is proud to celebrate the bright futures of the artists who call it home.

Visit sjdowntown.com/downtowndoors 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.

About San Jose Downtown Foundation (SJDF): The San Jose Downtown Foundation, founded in 1995, is the 501(3)(c) nonprofit wing of the San Jose Downtown Association, dedicated to supporting community-enriching programs including public art initiatives that celebrate youth creativity and beautify Downtown San Jose.