San Francisco General Hospital Foundation Reveals 25 New Heart Designs for the 2015 ‘Hearts in San Francisco’ Series

Sales of the hearts to raise much-needed funds for vital initiatives at San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center

SAN FRANCISCO (December 4, 2014) — San Francisco General Hospital Foundation (the Foundation) announced today that it will debut the brand new artworks of the ‘Hearts in San Francisco’ series at the tenth annual Heroes & Hearts Luncheon and Hearts After Dark on Thursday February 12, 2015 on the field at AT&T Park. The 25 new hearts feature a variety of designs, ranging from reflective chrome, Swarovski crystals, wood panels, Polaroid photos, kaleidoscope-like shapes and more. The series includes nine large hearts, five table top hearts and 11 mini mosaic hearts. Each heart will be sold to raise funds to support vital programs and initiatives at San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center (The General). Hearts in San Francisco artworks combined with Heroes & Hearts and Hearts After Dark proceeds (2004 - 2014) have raised more than $11.5 million for The Foundation.

The unique heart sculptures, found throughout the city, have become iconic to San Francisco locals and tourists alike, serving as a reminder the vital role of The General. After the Hearts events, select large hearts may remain on display in San Francisco's Union Square. The artists selected for the 2015 series are Kristine Brandt, Beka Brayer, Tom Connelly, Sara Dykstra, Kristin Farr, Dora Aldworth Grinnell, Michael J. Kruzich, Laura Lineback, Mackiebuilder.com, Kristine Mays, Polaroid SF, Barbara Schlein, Swarovski Crystal and Jeffery Thompson. In addition, the eleven mini mosaic artists are Randina Casenza, Gina Dominguez, Elizabeth Grindon, Dmitry Grudsky, Sofia Harrison, Wenia Lee, Jill Stevenson Ritter, Karen Thompson, Joi Tripp, Ann Watters and Wesley Wong. Additional details about the mini-mosaic artists will be released at a later date. Images of the mini-mosaics are available here.

“As the Foundation prepares for the new hospital to open in December 2015, we are honored to have so many local artists and designers that have contributed their talent to help spread the word about The Heart of Our City,” says Schuyler Hudak, Co-Chair of Heroes & Hearts and Hearts After Dark. “The 10th
anniversary of the luncheon will host the most diverse group of heart designs, which celebrate the uniqueness of our great city.”

The 2015 Heroes & Hearts Luncheon takes place on Thursday, February 12, 2015 at AT&T Park. Tickets for the event range in price from $300 for single seats to $5,000 for event sponsorship. To purchase tickets or to find out more about sponsorship, call 415-206-4478 or visit sfghf.org/events/heroes-hearts/tickets/. For more information about Hearts After Dark, visit: sfghf.org/events/hearts-after-dark/

Event sponsors include Kaiser Permanente, Webcor Builders, Wells Fargo, McKesson Foundation, PG&E, The Stanley S. Langendorf Foundation, UnitedHealth Group, VISA, Macy’s, The Mary Wohlford Foundation, Jeanne and Sanford Robertson and Walgreens. Media sponsors include 7x7, JC Decaux, KCBS All News 740 AM and 106.9 FM, NBC Bay Area, San Francisco Business Times, San Francisco Chronicle | SFGate.com and Where magazine.

ABOUT THE ARTISTS:
Large Hearts (5’ tall x 5’9” wide x 3’3” deep)

KRISTINE BRANDT — Muralist, plein air, portrait artist and illustrator, Kristine, works in all mediums. Reflecting on the diversity among locals and tourists that come to San Francisco each year, “Salutations” features greetings from various countries’ respective language. Kristine received classical training at the Florence Academy of Art and illustrative background at the Academy of Art in San Francisco. Additionally, she has participated as a San Francisco Arts Commission StreetSmARTS artist.

BEKA BRAYER — Mixed media-assemblage artist, Beka Brayer created “Leave Your Heart in San Francisco” in the hope of bringing a unique interactive installation experience to San Francisco and its
world community. This heart is wrapped in 100+lbs of hand forged chains, encouraging viewers to attach an engraved padlock, forever leaving a piece of themselves in San Francisco. The piece draws inspiration from the world famous “Love Lock” bridge in Paris and encourages viewers to leave their personal mark on the chains that encircle this iconic symbol of love. Beka’s work has been exhibited throughout the San Francisco Bay Area and has found its way into private collections all over the world.

TOM CONNELLY — Having grown up with a father who was a second generation California farmer, Tom constantly watched the repairs of farm machinery, where tools were manufactured and created to fit the need then broken down and reused over and over again. Tom began to see without being limited by an object’s original purpose. In "Heart Wood" each piece of wood acts as a memory to its past. The pieces are cut up, reshaped, and combined with other pieces to create a new story in the present. The wood, like our memories, accumulates a patina and changes with time.

KRISTIN FARR — Kristin is an artist, journalist and video producer, creating works in different mediums that focus on nostalgia, humor and relationships between colors. Her heart, “Magic Hexagon Heart” includes a striking configuration of bright colors and shapes, calling to mind the image of a kaleidoscope. Kristin’s artwork has been exhibited around the Bay Area at locations including Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and The Bedford Gallery, and her iPhone art app, FarrOut, was released in 2013. She has also painted public murals in Taiwan, Honolulu and San Francisco. She lives in the East Bay and her favorite color is all of them.
MICHAEL J. KRUZICH — Michael was trained at the renowned Mosaic Art School in Ravenna, Italy by Maestra Luciana Notturni and her colleagues. He maintains a professional studio practice in San Francisco called MKMosaics, producing fine art mosaics and commissions for private and commercial clients. His piece, “Still Beating!” features an image of a heart-rate monitor that creates the outline of the San Francisco skyline and the Golden Gate Bridge. Each tessera, a mixture of Natural Stone, Italian Smalti (glass), 24-k Gold (glass) and Swaravski Crystals, is cut by hand and laid one-by-one. There are over 54,500 tesserae in the entire sculptural mosaic and collectively represents more than 930 hours of work in the span of 3 months.

LAURA LINEBACK — Laura gained a heightened awareness to preventable heart disease after losing her father to a heart attack when he was just 60 years old. She looks to bring awareness through her artwork “#heartsinsf.” Laura has turned the heart into a giant, reflective, chrome mirror, allowing viewers to take their photo within the heart, instead of just with the heart. Born and raised in the Bay Area, Laura graduated from San Francisco State University with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree with an emphasis in painting and drawing. Her works have been featured in a variety of Group Exhibitions around the city including, the 2011 New Generations Student Showcase at the de Young Fine Arts Museum. You can find out more about Laura by visiting her website: www.lauralineback.com
Mackiebuilder.com — Builder, fabricator and maker, Matthew Mackie Pigman created an original heart sculpture with his local studio, Mackie Builder, entitled “Everett’s Heart Planes, ‘Brave Strong Boar.’” Cut from 2000 lbs of plate steel, sand blasted, powder coated, and illuminated with solar powered light, the heart was created to honor the medical community and to honor Matthew’s son, Everett’s true heart grit to stay alive during 6 days of life-support, followed by lung collapse, and 3 weeks of Pediatric ICU after he accidentally ingested the contents of a 80 year old bottle of iodine suspended in a caustic unknown solvent. Matthew witnessed the extent of Everett’s strength and will to survive; this struggle became a deep source of inspiration. Matthew hopes the heart, pure white and red, illuminated by power of sun and made from heavy steel bares some remote comparison to the strength and beauty of his son and the superheroes that helped him fight to stay alive.

KRISTINE MAYS — Kristine has developed a way of expressing the human experience through wire. Her piece, “Love Captured” features a gold heart veiled in a red wire casing. Kristine has been an exhibiting artist around the San Francisco Bay Area since 1993, working in wire for 20 years. She is an annual participant in ArtSpan’s San Francisco Open Studios Program. She has helped to raise thousands of dollars for AIDS research through her participation in the UCSF Art for AIDS Benefit Auction.
POLAROID SF—For the past three years, San Francisco artists, Bruce Scott and William Westley have been sharing one photo a day through the Polaroid SF project. The project was inspired by their deep-rooted love of all things San Francisco. With “Polaroid Heart,” Polaroid SF asked the community to participate by donating their own Polaroid photos that were taken within the City. 1,035 Polaroid images cover the heart in a collage that is as diverse as the city of San Francisco.

Table-Top Hearts (14" tall x 17" wide x 8" deep)

SARA DYKSTRA—Local artist Sara Dykstra created an abstract heart-artwork, “Heart Wave” with acrylic paint in hues of blue, green and purple. Sara received her MFA with a concentration in painting from the California College of Arts in 2013 and a BFA from The Maryland Institute, College of Art. She has previously been commissioned to create over one-hundred paintings for the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit in Dartmouth-Hitchcock Medical Center in Lebanon, New Hampshire. She also painted murals for the Dartmouth Medical School and the Grosse Pointe Public Library. Her work has been shown and collected nationally and internationally.
DORA ALDWORTH GRINNELL — Avid runner and collector and a cancer survivor, Dora is a mosaic and encaustic artist. Her table-top heart “Broad Stripes and Bright Stars” pulls together materials that are souvenirs themselves, creating an image of the American flag. Dora received her Bachelor of Arts in printmaking at the University of Florida, and her Master of Fine Arts in painting at the University of Wisconsin.

BARBARA SCHLEIN — Returning heart artist Barbara Schlein taught for the Fremont Unified School District for nearly 40 years. After retirement, Barbara pursued her passion for art, taking mosaic lessons from Dmitri Grudsky at the Fremont Adult School, where she continues to enjoy classes. “Views of Golden Gate Park” provides a glimpse of the iconic, but sometimes forgotten San Francisco structures, the Conservatory of Flowers and the Japanese Tea Garden, inside Golden Gate Park.

SWAROVSKI CRYSTAL — Swarovski Crystal’s creation for the 2014 Hearts series, raised $50,000 dollars for the Foundation. The company submitted a brand-new, one-of-a-kind design by Alice Payr, Doris Obersteiner, Sonja Marinkovic and Claudia Demetz, for the 2015 series. The heart is fully covered with “Crystal Skin,” a special lacquer composed of millions of the finest, tiny crystals. The surface is decorated with approximately 15,000 crystals of several shapes and sizes in nine different, outstanding color combinations.
JEFFREY THOMPSON — When Jeffery Thompson’s step-son was taken to The General in 2006 for a traumatic brain injury, he received emergency surgery by Dr. Shirley Stiver that saved his life. As a local artist, Jeffrey was inspired by The General and his love of the Bay Area to submit the design for “Heartline.” In the abstract design, Jeffrey used various materials, including recycled newspapers from San Francisco’s Chinatown, which is near his home.

About San Francisco General Hospital Foundation
San Francisco General Hospital Foundation (the Foundation) is an independent not-for-profit corporation 501(c)(3) that provides fundraising support to San Francisco General Hospital and Trauma Center (The General). The Foundation is dedicated to promoting excellence in research, education and care for all at The General. Funds raised by the Foundation allow The General to continue its long history of providing quality health care to San Francisco and the Greater Bay Area. Some of the programs funded wholly or in part by the Foundation include the Avon Comprehensive Breast Care Center, the Children’s Health Center, the Acute Care for Elders (ACE Unit, Cancer Awareness Resources Education (C.A.R.E.), the Bay Area Perinatal AIDS Center (BAPAC) and the Orthopedic Trauma Institute. For more information, please visit [www.sfghf.org](http://www.sfghf.org).

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