



August 17, 2016

For Immediate Release

Contact: Cecilia Clark, [cclark@cdm.org](mailto:cclark@cdm.org); 408-221-3814

Autumn Young, [ayoung@cdm.org](mailto:ayoung@cdm.org); office 408-673-2861 cell 408-656-4038

## **MEDIA ALERT/ FILMING, PHOTOGRAPHY and INTERVIEW OPPORTUNITY**

### **Rare Tree of 40 Fruit to Receive First Graft Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose August 17, 12:30 p.m. – 2 p.m.**

***Farmer and Syracuse University Professor Sam Van Aken On-Site to  
Graft Local Stock That Will Ultimately Produce 40 Different Stone Fruits***

**WHAT:** With the help of [Sam Van Aken](#), an entrepreneurial farmer and university professor, Children's Discovery Museum is planting art and agriculture in the museum's garden: [The Tree of 40 Fruit](#). The only one of its kind on the [West Coast](#), this remarkable and rare work of art will ultimately produce 40 different types of stone fruit.

**Graft is a Good Thing:** [Sam Van Aken](#) will be at the museum on Wednesday, August 17 to graft local stock onto the museum's [Tree of 40 Fruit](#) in Phase I of the grafting process.

The museum's tree will feature stone fruit varieties historically from this region, helping visitors learn local agricultural history while helping sustain heirloom fruit varieties. The tree will blossom into gorgeous shades of pink, crimson, fuchsia, purple and white at different times and will be a source of pride in the museum's upcoming environmental outdoor space, "**Bill's Backyard**," to open in the summer of 2017.

To learn more about [Sam Van Aken](#), check out his **TedTalk:** [2014 TEDxManhattan talk](#) and this **YouTube** video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ik3l4U\\_17bl](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ik3l4U_17bl)

**WHEN:** Wednesday, August 17 from 12:30 – 2:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose, 180 Woz Way, San Jose

**WHY:** Children and families will explore this unique tree that merges art and agriculture. As [The Tree of 40 Fruit](#) matures it will be a part of the museum's environmental programs where children can learn about the area's rich farming history and appreciate the stunning kaleidoscope of blossom colors.

Van Aken's projects use more than 250 varieties of stone fruit. Each tree has a different combination of heirloom varieties. His work is part art, part agriculture, and part conservation. The trees typically grow more diverse in color and fruit each year.

### **[About Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose](#)**

With over 150 interactive exhibits and programs, **Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose** is one of the largest museums of its kind in the nation. Since opening its doors in 1990, CDM has welcomed over 7 million visitors and has offered new exhibits each year that respond to children's diverse educational needs. The striking 52,000 square foot purple building was designed by Mexico City-based architect Ricardo Legorreta and is a beacon of discovery. Encompassing the broad themes of community, connections and creativity, hands-on exhibits invite self-directed, open-ended explorations. For more information about the Museum, visit [www.cdm.org](http://www.cdm.org).