



July 15, 2019

Contact: Cecilia Clark, cclark@cdm.org; cell 408-221-3814

The LeRoy Neiman Art Studio Opening and Dedication Thursday, July 18, 11:30 a.m.

BEST VISUALS: Adorable and creative 8-year-olds will officially dedicate the studio by painting a mural based on a rhino design originally created by artist LeRoy Neiman.

Activity teed up by San Francisco Giants' Broadcaster Dave Flemming and San Jose Jazz Youth Quartet.

Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose Opens and Dedicates the LeRoy Neiman Art Studio After Famous Artist

Organization chosen as first museum funded by Good Tidings Foundation and the LeRoy Neiman and Janet Byrne Neiman Foundation

San Jose, CA – July 15, 2019 – Young museum visitors will now have a newly refurbished artmaking space to explore their creativity and express themselves at Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose. A \$250,000 first-ever museum-grant from the Good Tidings Foundation and the LeRoy Neiman and Janet Byrne Neiman Foundation has upgraded the look, layout, and function of the previous Art Studio. The arts space is being renamed as the **LeRoy Neiman Art Studio**, in honor of the late, celebrity artist **LeRoy Neiman**. It will be dedicated on Thursday, July 18 at 11:30 a.m. with the help of San Francisco Giants' Broadcaster Dave Flemming (*Good Tidings Foundation board member*). The studio will open to the public on Friday, July 19.

"Helping children explore their creativity is at the heart of what we do," said Marilee Jennings, executive director of Children's Discovery Museum. "This renovation allows us to expand the types of art activities we offer to even more children. The research is clear that involvement in the arts pays many dividends for our children, including greater academic achievement and the development of emotional and social intelligence necessary for the 21st century workforce."

The renovation includes the installation of a large digital screen allowing four artists to simultaneously use its image projection capabilities for video, photos, and other digital projects. Immersive creative experiences such as shadow and light-play are now possible thanks to an electronic blind system on all windows. More young artists will now be served with new mobile furniture that adds additional seats and work spaces and can be configured differently based on the activity. Redesigned storage cabinets are now more useful and refinished countertops will add years of life to the space.

“LeRoy Neiman and his foundation have been a part of the [Good Tidings Foundation](#) for 25 years,” said Larry Harper, executive director of the Good Tidings Foundation. “This youth studio at the museum marks our thirteenth that we have built and gifted across the country. We are thrilled that this is our first one in a museum and that it will serve up to 500 children a day.”

Emphasizing process over product, the [Art Studio](#) offers daily programs of traditional and conceptual art such as painting, printmaking, sculpture, collage, and drawing using a variety of materials to inspire creativity and curiosity. The Visiting Artist and the Artist-in-Residence programs introduce families to established and emerging artists through hands-on workshops.

LeRoy Neiman: The Artist, Educator, and Philanthropist

LeRoy Neiman was one of the most popular and commercially successful artists of the 20th century. Painting in an expressionistic style, he famously captured the Olympics, was the showman for sports and cultural icons, and loved personifying animals in their natural settings. A child of the depression, Neiman understood the power of giving back. He established the [LeRoy Neiman Foundation](#) in 1986 and donated more than \$20 million to art institutions, universities, and community organizations supporting arts programs for at-risk youth.

Neiman documented the kaleidoscope of society with riotous colors - a flamboyant celebrity artist, he painted on live TV and his bright sketches and paintings popped in numerous books and magazines. While he left behind more than a massive body of work, he was also a sought-after educator, author, and a cherished philanthropist.

[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, the award-winning museum has welcomed over 9 million visitors and offers new exhibits each year that respond to children's diverse educational needs. In 2017, *Bill’s Backyard: Bridge to Nature* opened, doubling the museum’s exhibit space with a half-acre of nature exploration and science and environmental education. The striking 52,000 square foot purple building was designed by Mexico City-based architect Ricardo Legorreta. 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.