



News Release

Office of Cultural Affairs

For Immediate Release

January 8, 2018

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“SONIC RUNWAY” Light Art Installation at San José City Hall Extended Through March 9, 2018

First Artwork of Burning Man Project Partnership Extended.

SAN JOSE, Calif. - Responding to popular demand, the City of San José Office of Cultural Affairs and Burning Man Project are extending the light art installation *Sonic Runway* by Rob Jensen and Warren Trezevant through March 9, 2018. This artwork, located in front of San José City Hall, at 200 E. Santa Clara St, is the first of a series of installations for the *Playa to Paseo* initiative, which will install temporary Burning Man-inspired art pieces in San José.

Sonic Runway is a light-art installation that visualizes the speed of sound. The artwork converts audio signals into a pattern of lights that shoots down a corridor of arches, synchronized with the music being performed. Standing at the front of the runway, the beats of the music visually ripple away from the viewer. Looking back, one can see the sound coming and hear the music just as the patterns reach the viewer. *Sonic Runway* can be viewed nightly from 5:00 p.m. to midnight.

“The public response to *Sonic Runway* has been remarkable,” says Kerry Adams Hapner, Director of the San José Office of Cultural Affairs. “It has become a destination for San Joseans of all ages and backgrounds, and visitors. It has become a site for marriage proposals, fashion shoots, light saber battles, and, yes, even the backdrop for the San José Earthquake’s new player Magnus Eriksson’s welcome video. We are grateful to the partnership of the brilliant artists Ron Jensen and Warren Trezevant, and Burning Man Project.”

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On Thursday evenings through the end of the installation, the San Jose Office of Cultural Affairs is programming live musical performances as part of the *Experiments in Sound Series* on the *Sonic Runway*. Scheduled from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m., performances include acclaimed local and national artists such as mezzo-soprano Carla Dirlikov Canales, San Jose Taiko, Cellista, the beloved Vivace Youth Chorus, and sound healer Jessica Neideffer with her singing crystal bowls. A schedule of upcoming performances can be found on the Office of Cultural Affairs Facebook page and website, www.sanjoseculture.org.

Artist Bios

Rob Jensen

Lead artist Rob Jensen conceived *Sonic Runway* while observing the effects of sound at Burning Man in 2002. As a visual artist, engineer and musician, Rob has always been drawn to the intersection of science and art. Rob's day job also combines art and technology, where he alternates between animating and engineering at Pixar Animation Studios.

Warren Trezevant

As a former animator at Pixar Animation Studios, Warren enjoys creating experiences of wonder, from bringing characters to life on the movie screen to bringing them to life in the real world, as with the stroboscopic *Toy Story Zoetrope*. Warren also contributed his animation skills to Burning Man projects like Peter Hudson's large-scale stroboscopic zoetropes *Charon* and *Eternal Return*, as well as the breathing for Marco Cochrane's sculpture *R_Evolution*. Warren's been a co-collaborator and producer of *Sonic Runway* since inception.

About Playa to Paseo

The partnership with the City of San José is intended to call forth to the San José artist community and invite participation in imagining the way that temporary art can invigorate public spaces across San José's 180-square-mile landscape. This project will be part of a larger initiative to develop art from within the San José art community that can both go to Black Rock City and be situated in San José, thus completing the circle from Playa to Paseo to Playa.

About Burning Man Project

Burning Man Project, a nonprofit organization, produces the annual Burning Man event in Black Rock City, and works year-round to extend and facilitate the culture that has grown from the event into the larger world. Burning Man Project provides inspiration, connection, education, and grants to a creative ecosystem of builders, makers, artists, and community leaders. Its work spans

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six interconnected program areas: Art, Education, Civic Involvement, Culture, Philosophical Center, and Social Enterprise. An ever-growing global network supports and furthers these efforts in 44 U.S. states and 37 countries around the world.

About the City of San José Office of Cultural Affairs

The City of San José recognizes that the arts and culture are essential elements in the character and quality of life in a vibrant community and seeks to ensure that San José is an effective hub of a wide array of arts and cultural opportunities throughout Silicon Valley. The Office of Cultural Affairs, a division of Economic Development in the City Manager's Office, is the lead City of San José agency for stewarding a vibrant arts sector. It achieves this mission through public art and placemaking, arts funding, special event coordination, creative entrepreneur work-force development, cultural facility stewardship, and, among other items, cultural policy. Visit www.sanjoseculture.org.

About the City of San José

San José, Capital of Silicon Valley, is the largest city in Northern California and the 10th largest city in the nation, with an ethnically diverse population of more than one million. San José was founded in 1777, once served as the state capital of California, and encompasses 180 square miles. The City's website is sanjoseca.gov.

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