



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

## COMMISSION FOR ARTS AND CULTURE

### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, January 30, 2004

**Contact:** Victoria Hamilton

(619) 533-3440

### **State of the Arts and Culture Event Scheduled for February 19, 2004**

Second annual event will highlight how creativity transforms the San Diego community.

San Diego, CA...As mentioned by Mayor Dick Murphy in his 2004 State of the City Address, the second annual State of the Arts and Culture Event will be held on Thursday, February 19, 2004, 5 – 6:30 p.m. at San Diego Civic Theatre. The event is free and open to the public.

The event will celebrate the region's artistic and cultural resources and discuss how creativity is an important asset to cities and can transform community. The event will open with welcoming remarks by Mayor Dick Murphy. The program will feature a special presentation by **John Norquist**, former Mayor of Milwaukee and current President and CEO of the Congress for New Urbanism, a Chicago based nonprofit that champions coherent regional planning, walkable neighborhoods, and attractive, accommodating civic spaces. Other discussants include architect and Woodbury University Professor **Teddy Cruz**, Qualcomm Board Chair and CEO **Irwin Jacobs, PhD** (via video presentation), and San Diego Convention Center Corporation President and CEO **Carol Wallace**. The program will be moderated by San Diego State University President **Stephen L. Weber, PhD**. The event will be capped by an excerpt of a San Diego Opera performance and followed by a reception, hosted by San Diego Convention Center Corporation.

Victoria Hamilton, Executive Director of the Commission for Arts and Culture, noted that the gathering will help raise awareness of the contributions of creativity to our region. "San Diego has been cited as the third most creative city in the United States by Richard Florida's [The Rise of the Creative Class](#). Research shows that a vibrant arts and culture scene helps attract new business, boosts tourism, and promotes civic dialogue. It is important that arts, culture and creativity are part of our discussions as we plan for the future of San Diego."

-- More --

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Friday, January 30, 2004

**State of the Arts and Culture Address scheduled for February 19, 2004**

Page 2 of 2

The State of the Arts and Culture Address is the result of a multi-year effort by the San Diego Cultural Leaders Group, a consortium funded by a grant to the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego from The James Irvine Foundation. The group is composed of the directors of ten cultural institutions in the region. The organizations include the Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, San Diego Museum of Art, San Diego Opera, La Jolla Playhouse, The Old Globe Theatre, San Diego Symphony, San Diego Natural History Museum, Reuben H. Fleet Science Center, Centro Cultural Tijuana and the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture.

For more information about the second annual State of the Arts and Culture Event contact the Commission at 619/ 533-3050. Reserve a seat by calling 619/533-3024.

####