



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Public Library

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Thursday, December 2, 2004

CONTACT: Mark-Elliott Lugo, Library Curator
(619) 238-6627 (Central Library)
Douglas Spence, Branch Manager
(858) 581-9934

Unusual Contemporary Altars Exhibition to Open at Pacific Beach Taylor Branch Library

SAN DIEGO – One of the most unusual and thought-provoking art exhibitions to be seen in San Diego this year will run from Dec. 12, 2004, through Jan. 30, 2005 at the Pacific Beach Taylor Branch Library. Titled *The Altars Project*, the exhibition is part of *Stories of Faith: Religion and Diversity in San Diego*, an ambitious, five-month-long series of events organized by the City of San Diego Public Library system.

The Altars Project will open with a reception for the exhibiting artists on Sunday, December 12, from 1 to 4 p.m. The reception and exhibition are free of charge.

The Altars Project features works by eleven of San Diego's leading contemporary artists, in addition to a cutting-edge architect and a collaborative group of art furniture makers, who were invited to create contemporary altars reflecting their own spiritual beliefs, whatever they might be. Aside from some minor space restrictions, the inspiration, meaning, and configuration of the altars were left open to interpretation by the participants to allow them maximum freedom of expression. The exhibited works offer a fascinating and nontraditional look at belief systems, creativity, and personal values. Library Curator Mark-Elliott Lugo selected a diverse group of artists based on their innovative approach to artmaking, the quality and complexity of their art, and their ability to work in a three-dimensional format.

The artists are: David Avalos, Sandra Berlin, Jess Dominguez, Diana Duval, William Gambini, Flavia Gilmore, John Halaka, architect Steven Lombardi, Joe Nyiri, onefurniture (a collaborative group of artists headed by Alfred Moscola), Cheryl Parry, Barbara Sexton, and James Watts. Personal interviews with *Altars Project* artists are available by appointment through the library curator.

The Pacific Beach Taylor Branch Library is located at 4275 Cass St. Library hours are: Mondays and Wednesdays, noon to 8 p.m.; Tuesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, and Saturdays, 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; and Sundays, 1 to 5 p.m. For special holiday hours, the public should call the library. For information, call (858) 581-9934.

-- more --

**Unusual Contemporary Altars Exhibition to Open at Pacific Beach Taylor Branch Library
December 2, 2004**

The City of San Diego Public Library's Visual Arts Program is a nationally recognized series of exhibitions, lectures, and other art-related activities. The mission of the program is to demonstrate the library's role as a cultural institution embracing a broad range of disciplines, while assisting San Diego's mid-career and older artists in achieving wider local, regional, and national attention. Exhibitions at the Taylor Library are made possible, in part, by a grant and gifts from the Frederic Whitaker and Eileen Monaghan Whitaker Foundation and CompUSA, contributions from individuals, and volunteer efforts. Donations of works of art for the library's permanent collection are also being sought. For more information about *The Altars Project* or tax-deductible contributions to the Visual Arts Program, the public can contact Library Curator Mark-Elliott Lugo at (619) 238-6627.

Stories of Faith: Diversity and Religion in San Diego is funded by the California Council for Humanities' Community Speak project and explores the role of religion as a pivotal filter through which San Diegans can better understand their history and changes to their communities. *Stories of Faith* is enabling San Diego residents to learn more about each other's beliefs and values through a variety of activities such as writing and oral history workshops, seminars, documentaries, theatrical performances, book discussions, films, and exhibitions. A complete archive of *Stories of Faith* press releases, an up-to-date schedule of events, and other information is available on the San Diego Public Library Web site at <http://www.sandiego.gov/public-library/>.

###

The City of San Diego Public Library – Your Link to the Past and Gateway to the Future