

SAN JOSE MUSEUM OF ART

For Immediate Release

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VISITORS MAY SHARE SEEDS AT SEED “LIBRARY” AT SJMA

SHARE SEEDS by Eating in Public is a prelude to *Around the Table*,
a festival of food and the arts.

SAN JOSE, California (August 2013)—In preparation for its ambitious exhibition *Around the Table: food, creativity, community*—the catalyst for a Bay Area-wide festival of food and the arts—the San Jose Museum of Art has installed a seed-sharing “library” in its café. *SHARE SEEDS*, an ongoing art project by the activists’ collective Eating in Public, is a do-it-yourself (DIY) seed-sharing station constructed entirely out of recycled and repurposed materials. It allows people to help themselves free of cost and without restriction to non-genetically modified seeds.

Founded in 2003 in Hawaii by artist Gaye Chan and sociologist Nandita Sharma, Eating in Public creates guerilla projects that reimagine the use of public and private land. Eating in Public has planted gardens along roadways; created stores on sidewalks and front lawns; and designed and installed recycling bins in public spaces. Their intention is to support and build interest in people’s ability to engage in land use that is socially and ecologically responsible. Currently, *SHARE SEEDS* stations can be found throughout the world, including Honolulu; London; Portland, Oregon; San Diego; Taos, New Mexico; and Vancouver.

“Seed-sharing is an ancient practice throughout the world,” said Chan and Sharma. “It is currently under threat by big industrial seed corporations. They want to patent seeds and prevent us from sharing them so we will always be forced to buy from them. Seed-sharing is crucial to our freedom, autonomy from capitalism, and our collective survival.”

Built from repurposed wood, the *SHARE SEEDS* station holds seed packets made from recycled envelopes stamped with the Eating in Public logo. The selection of seeds includes painted dry bush beans, Russian kale, and chard, which visitors may take home to plant free of charge. The station also holds instructions for selecting, collecting, and storing seeds; envelopes; and labeling supplies. Visitors are encouraged to collect non-hybrid seeds from their own gardens and leave them at the *SHARE SEEDS* station for other visitors. The station will be up at SJMA for one year to allow for a full cycle of plantings and harvests.

SHARE SEEDS anticipates the launch of *Around the Table: Food, Creativity, Community* (November 9, 2013 through April 20, 2014), a broad-reaching exhibition that offers a multitude of perspectives on food—from local agricultural history and cultural expression to artisanship, health and nutrition, and the environment.

AROUND THE TABLE: FOOD, CREATIVITY, COMMUNITY

This exhibition at the San Jose Museum of Art and accompanying festival of activities presented by 31 partnering organizations celebrate and explore the role that food plays in our lives. The agricultural bounty of the region has brought waves of immigration (Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Mexican, Vietnamese) and shaped a rich history of cultural diversity, which today we share in part via food. From food trucks to molecular gastronomy, food helps define the Bay Area's communities. *Around the Table* unfolds in three stages at SJMA this fall, and extends far beyond the Museum's walls. Thirty-one partnering organizations are participating in the extensive community festival of food, creativity, and community. Activities include gleaned tours, farm visits, performances, and exhibitions. For a calendar and more information visit aroundthetable.org.

Participating organizations are: 18 Reasons, San Francisco; Catharine Clark Gallery, San Francisco; Cafe Too!; 50 West c/o CBRE Inc., San Jose; Center for Asian American Media (CAAM), San Francisco; City of San José Office of Cultural Affairs; Children's Discovery Museum, San Jose; CommUniverCity, San Jose; de Saisset Museum, Santa Clara; Emma Prusch Farm Park, San Jose; Guadalupe River Park Conservancy, San Jose; History San José ; India Community Center, Milpitas; KQED Public Media for Northern California; Movimiento de Arte y Cultura Latino Americana (MACLA), San Jose; Mexican Heritage Plaza, San Jose; Montalvo Arts Center, Saratoga; Pajaro Valley Arts Council, Watsonville; Palo Alto Art Center; Peninsula Open Space Trust, Palo Alto; San José Downtown Association; San Jose Institute of Contemporary Art; San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles; Santa Clara County Farm Bureau; Second Harvest Food Bank of Santa Clara and San Mateo Counties, San Carlos; SPUR, San Jose; Team San Jose; Teatro Vision, San Jose; The Tech Museum of Innovation, San Jose; Valley Verde, San Jose; Veggelution Community Farm, San Jose; and ZERO 1, San Jose.

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The San Jose Museum of Art celebrates new ideas, stimulates creativity, and inspires connection with every visit. Welcoming and thought-provoking, the Museum rejects stuffiness and delights visitors with its surprising and playful perspective on the art and artists of our time.

The San Jose Museum of Art is located at 110 South Market Street in downtown San Jose, California. The museum is open Tuesday through Sunday, 11 PM to 5 PM and until 8 PM or later on the third Thursday of each month. Admission is \$8 for adults, \$5 for students and senior citizens, and free to members and children under 6. For more information, call 408-271-6840 or visit www.SanJoseMuseumofArt.org.

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