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Local Urban Arts Group Writerz Blok to Create Graffiti Mural for The San Diego Museum of Art

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SAN DIEGO, CA – A new mural commissioned for The San Diego Museum of Art will be created by the talented young artists that run San Diego’s innovative urban arts program, Writerz Blok.

The piece will be painted at the Museum, and the public can watch the artists at work any weeknight from November 1-16 between the hours of 5-9 p.m. The mural will be installed in conjunction with the Museum’s fall exhibition *Mexican Modern Painting from the Andrés Blaisten Collection*.

Final artwork will be selected by the Museum from three concepts created by the Writerz Blok team. The mural will take a team of four Writerz Blok artists and a group of youth interns approximately two months to complete. The Museum plans to officially dedicate the mural on Thursday, December 8, at an event that will be free and open to the public, and will feature a brief talk with artists and Museum staff.

“This is the pinnacle of institutions in San Diego when it comes to art,” said Sergio Gonzales, Business Manager of Writerz Blok. “It’s amazing to have the opportunity to be showcased *at* [sic] such a well-respected Balboa Park institution.”

Graffiti art has enjoyed a resurgence as of late in terms of popularity and prominence, especially in the museum and wider art world. As one of the most public forms of art, artists have used graffiti as an outlet to express the challenges and emotions of daily life, most notably in the inner city.

Now, Writerz Blok offers training programs to translate the raw talent of these artists into marketable career skills like graphic arts, muralism, and silk screen printing.

“The Writerz Blok program, which began as a method of deterring vandalism in the neighborhoods of southeastern San Diego, is now a showcase of young talent in the region,” said Alexander Jarman, Manager of Public Programs for the Department of Education at The San Diego Museum of Art. “The program allows young artists to move away from a conversation about racking paint and crossing out others’ tags to one of

creating meaningful works for the community, which is something the Museum endorses, salutes, and celebrates.”

Writerz Blok began as a gang-prevention strategy and has grown into one of the country’s most innovative youth art programs. It is a safe, “gang-neutral”, and creative space for neighborhood youth that encourages artistic expression and entrepreneurial exploration while providing an alternative to gang membership and an opportunity for shaping a healthy and fulfilling future. The program hosts workshops and hands-on experiences on-site, as well as offering classes at and creating pieces for schools, museums, and other community spaces.

The transformation from at-risk youth intervention program to urban art park and graphic arts training program has been made possible through the generosity of supporters like the San Diego Neighborhood Funders, The Legler Benbough Foundation, The Annie E. Casey Foundation, Jacobs Family Foundation, the Parker Foundation, and Wells Fargo.

To learn more about Writerz Blok, visit WriterzBlok.com. To learn more about The San Diego Museum of Art, visit TheSanDiegoMuseumofArt.org

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