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Youth Explore Urban Design Issues through YAC, a Collaboration between Montalvo Arts Center and Adobe Youth Voices

**Teens present urban design models for the City of San José, culminating in a public exhibition at
Montalvo's Project Space, June 29 through Sept. 28
Opening Reception: Sunday, June 29, 2-4pm**

SARATOGA, Calif. – The Youth Action Coalition (YAC), a collaboration between Montalvo Arts Center and Adobe Youth Voices, brings together Silicon Valley teens from diverse socio-economic backgrounds to experience hands-on, project-based art education through urban planning by investigating models of urban design as well as the City of San José's General Plan. YAC is a new model for mentoring and for art education, empowering youth to become a voice for the next generation through learning about and participating in best urban design practices. The program is facilitated by [headRush](#), former Montalvo artists-in-residence and youth advocates.

Working first-hand with urban designers, architects and government officials, youth ages 15 to 18 explore the impact of urban planning on the quality of their lives, expanding their knowledge of design issues that shape livable communities. Using digital media to create an interactive installation of their own proposal for the City of San José, YAC's work culminates in a public exhibition, *Urban Design and the Next Generation*, at Montalvo's Project Space, opening with a reception on Sunday, June 29 from 2-4pm and running through Sept. 29, Thursday through Sunday, 11 am-3pm and one hour prior to Montalvo concerts. The exhibition includes 3D models of their visions for Downtown San José, as well as colorful renditions of their suggested changes to existing architecture on large-scale photographs of downtown structures.

Featuring website content, audio, visual and digital projects and design concepts, YAC presents models in diverse multimedia (video, blogs, audio narratives and more) for civic leaders, peers, family and the general public, serving as a springboard to broader dialogue on urban design issues. Throughout the 10-week workshop, which started in March and ends this month, YAC has identified their concerns for the

future of San José while developing creative solutions that will be presented at the exhibition. Currently, YAC is examining the following questions:

- What does a multicultural city mean?
- What does it mean to be 'green'?
- What do spaces for youth look like?

"Montalvo and Adobe Youth Voices' partnership is seamless as both organizations share aligned youth education goals," said Robert Sain, executive director at Montalvo. "Our dedication to empowering youth to become a voice for the next generation via participation in best urban design practices is unprecedented in Silicon Valley."

Following the culmination of the workshop and the installation of work at Montalvo's Project Space, YAC participants will receive scholarships to participate in Montalvo's [Summer Arts Institute](#), which was inspired by Montalvo's Lucas Artists Programs artists' residency, and connects highly talented, forward-looking visual, performing and multi-media teaching artists with Silicon Valley youth. The Summer Arts Institute this year is an extension of the YAC program and runs June 16-20.

About Adobe Youth Voices

Adobe Youth Voices is the Adobe Foundation's global signature philanthropy program designed to provide youth in underserved communities with the critical skills they need to become active and engaged members of their communities and world at large. Adobe Youth Voices empowers youth worldwide to comment on their world using multimedia and digital tools to communicate and share their ideas, demonstrate their potential, and take action in their communities. By harnessing the energy and insight of youth and enabling them to express themselves, their opinions, and aspirations, Adobe Youth Voices aims to inspire a dialogue for change in their communities. For more information and examples of youth work, visit www.adobe.com/go/youthvoices.

About headRush

headRush combines popular theatre and Spoken Word Comedy to create a unique rush of psychopolítico satire that ignites critical dialogue and social action. Made up of Oakland CA-based educators/writers/performers, headRush makes complex issues accessible and relevant to diverse audiences through dramatic multi-media storytelling and interactive workshops. Since their debut in 2003, headRush has maintained a strong performance record, bringing hard-hitting, original productions to schools, universities, conferences, cultural centers, theatres and public spaces throughout California and beyond.

About Montalvo Arts Center

Montalvo is a member-supported, nonprofit organization dedicated to capturing the innovative and diverse spirit of Silicon Valley while engaging people in contemporary concerns through the arts. The Center is dedicated to expanding the role of the arts, artists, and arts organizations as a resource and asset for community and culture. Montalvo's core business is developing and delivering initiatives that reframe issues using a multi-disciplinary approach. Located in Silicon Valley's Saratoga hills, Montalvo

Arts Center rests on 175 stunning acres, including the Sally and Don Lucas Artists Programs, an international artist residency; a historic Mediterranean villa, two theaters, a gallery and 2.5 miles of hiking trails. A nationally registered landmark, the historic villa and grounds were left to the people of California in 1930 by Senator James Phelan for the encouragement of art, music, literature and architecture. Today, Montalvo and its arts programs serve nearly 175,000 visitors each year. For information: www.montalvoarts.org.

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