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Congresswoman Matsui Celebrates Crocker Art Museum Expansion Grand Opening

SACRAMENTO, CA– Today, Congresswoman Doris Matsui (CA-05) joined community leaders and art enthusiasts from around the Sacramento region for the grand opening of the Crocker Art Museum's Expansion. Congresswoman Matsui delivered remarks highlighting the importance of the Crocker expansion during today's celebration, and presented Tom Weborg, President of the Board, and Lial Jones, Director of the Crocker Art Museum, with a flag flown over the United States Capitol in the Museum's honor. The Congresswoman's remarks, as prepared for delivery, are below:

"It is such a pleasure to be here with all of you to celebrate the re-opening of the Crocker Art Museum and this beautiful new wing!

"As we all know, this is an exciting event that has been a long time coming, and is an important milestone for the Sacramento arts community. The Crocker has been the pinnacle of the local arts scene for decades, and continues to be one of the jewels of the Sacramento region and all of California.

"I must acknowledge and thank Mort and Marcy Friedman and Jim and Joyce Teel for their incredibly generous contributions to this museum. Our region owes you and the hundreds of other donors a debt of gratitude.

"As someone who spent many years as a volunteer docent here, I can tell you that this is a truly special place. People of all ages walk through these doors, and are presented with the very best Sacramento has to offer.

"The Museum has made a name for itself in part because of its rich collections, and its wonderful way of showcasing traveling exhibits. But the Crocker Art Museum is also the premier collector of local artwork – artwork that tells the story of what it means to be a Californian.

"And no one does that better than Sacramento's own Wayne Thiebaud. The New York Times recently noted that the Crocker 'holds a special place in (Wayne's) heart.' And he described Sacramento as a place where 'There's a sense of lineage, of families over generations.'

"Indeed, the two are very closely intertwined. In fact, the Crocker has been a second home to

my family, and to several generations of Sacramentans. It is part of what makes Sacramento such a wonderful place to call home. And the expansion we are here to celebrate today will further enable the Crocker to serve as an integral component of the region's cultural and economic life.

“With the new expansion, the Museum will triple its size and serve the needs of audiences of all ages and abilities. Thanks to the support of community members, donors, supporters, the City of Sacramento, and Crocker enthusiasts from all over the country, we are marking a special moment in the history of the Crocker and the history of Sacramento.

“As a tribute of thanks, I would like to present Lial Jones and Tom Weborg with this flag that flew over the United States Capitol. Thank you all for your part in making today's opening possible.”

The Crocker Art Museum was established in 1885 and is one of the leading art institutions in Northern California. The Crocker Art Museum attracts 160,000 visitors each year, and contains collections of California art, world-renowned Old Master drawings, significant holdings of Asian art and international ceramics and hosts 15 changing exhibitions annually highlighting a variety of media, time periods and cultures.

Today, the Crocker opened the 125,000-square-foot Teel Family Pavilion. The expansion project is being funded by a combination of private and public donors and, to date, the museum has raised \$93 million for the project.

The Crocker is located at 216 O Street in Downtown Sacramento. Starting October 12, Museum hours will be 10 a.m.–7 p.m., Tuesday–Wednesday; 10 a.m.–9 p.m., Thursday; 10 a.m.–5 p.m., Friday–Sunday. Every Third Sunday of the month is “Pay What You Wish Sunday” sponsored by Bank of America.

For more information, please call (916) 808-7000 or visit www.crockerartmuseum.org .

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