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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

History San José Appoints Jim Towery as Chairperson Along with Two New Board Members

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The Board of Directors of History San José (HSJ) has approved the appointment of its new slate of officers at its annual meeting. Effective July 1st the new Chair of the Board of Directors is Jim Towery. A well-known attorney at the downtown San José office of Hoge, Fenton, Jones & Appel, Inc., Towery brings a wealth of nonprofit leadership experience.

“Jim is a strong asset to History San José,” stated Alida Bray, President and CEO of HSJ. “He has been so supportive through this past year, always providing a level and rational foundation. His leadership and style will carry HSJ into a successful and burgeoning future.”

Margie Matthews served as the Board Chair for the past three years, and now looks forward to continuing to serve as HSJ as a Board member.

Towery’s community involvement includes serving as chair of the former Alexian Brothers Hospital Board of Trustees; Chair of the Guadalupe River Park and Gardens; Co-Founder and Chair of the Silicon Valley Campaign for Legal Services; chair of the Valley Medical Center Foundation and coaching championship teams for Lincoln High School in county and state mock trial competitions. He has been on the Board of History San José since 2002, and on the Executive Committee since 2004.

Towery received his A.B. from Princeton and his J.D. from Emory University School of Law in Atlanta. He has received numerous awards, is a published author of legal publications, has been the President of the State Bar of California and has been involved in several committees on the state and national level, as well as President of the Santa Clara County Bar Association. He is currently a law lecturer at Santa Clara University School of Law and an adjunct Professor of Ethics at Lincoln Law School in San Jose.

Also being appointed to the Board of Directors, are two new members of the roster for the upcoming fiscal year, Don Gagliardi and Frank Penrose.

Don Gagliardi is an attorney specializing in the area of business and intellectual property litigation. He is also active in the San José community, a member of the Rotary Club of San José, on the board of the San Jose Downtown Association and on the San Jose Strong Neighborhoods Initiative Project Area Committee. He is past-president of the Northside Neighborhood Association and President of the Thirteenth Street Area Neighborhood Advisory Committee.

Gagliardi is a graduate of Washington University and Stanford Law School.

Frank Penrose is the Director of Business Development at Absolute Turnkey Solutions. He has been in the Silicon Valley for almost 30 years and co-founded the St. James Historic District Neighborhood Association and the Friends of St. James Park. He is also President of the United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County, on the board of the San Jose Downtown Association, and Chair of the Neighborhood Advisory Group Parks, Recreation & Trails Sub-Advisory Group in District 3.

“Both of the new members bring a sense of neighborhood to the museum’s Board of Directors,” said Alida Bray, President and CEO of History San José. “Both Don and Frank bring the strength of their passion to the Board. We are fortunate to have engaged leadership from the community.”

History San José offers educational programs, bringing 25,000 school children through History Park each year, as well as community outreach programs, such as the History Makers’ Series. Also at History Park, historic art exhibitions such as *Becoming American: Immigration in San José* (through June 19th) and *A Breath of Plein Air* (opening May 4th) correlate the history of the Santa Clara Valley and the mission of History San José.

History San José (HSJ) recently learned that it has earned the sought-after and highly-prized accreditation from the American Association of Museums (AAM). This elite award makes History San José one of only three museums in Santa Clara County to be accredited, joining the de Saisset Museum and the San Jose Museum of Art.

For more information check out the website www.historysanjose.org or call 408 287 2290

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About History San José:

History San José is a non-profit organization dedicated to preserving and sharing the continuing history of the Santa Clara Valley. HSJ manages one of the largest and most comprehensive regional history collections in the State of California, from 1784 Spanish governmental records to twenty-first century Silicon Valley technology.

History San José aspires to provide innovative national leadership in preserving and sharing regional history by engaging diverse audiences in exploring the varieties of human experience that contributes to the continuing history of San José and the Santa Clara Valley.

History Park at Kelley Park, located at 1650 Senter Road, is a 14-acre park featuring a town atmosphere, with free rides on historic trolleys, exhibit galleries and 27 historic buildings, including the Museum Store at O’Brien’s Candy Factory, with an ice cream parlor and candy shop. History Park is open Tuesday through Sunday, 12 noon – 5:00 p.m. Admission is free.

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