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San José Public Library Launches Digital Story Station to Capture Personal Histories That Are Uniquely San José

*Pilot Phase Will Focus on Latino Community – All Stories Become Part of the
Statewide “California of the Past” Digital Story Collection*

SAN JOSE, Calif. — San José Public Library, in collaboration with San José State University Library’s Cultural Heritage Center, introduces a Digital Story Station located in Program Room 525 on the fifth floor of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Library. A pilot program, starting April 8 and continuing throughout the summer, will focus initially on collecting stories of San Jose’s Latino community. The Station will be available for drop-ins on Wednesday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. and by appointment.

“Storytelling has been used throughout time as a means to build and strengthen community, and to pass on our collective history to the next generation,” says California Room Lead Librarian Stacy Mueller. “Through use of the Digital Story Station we anticipate creating a rich treasure trove of stories that uniquely characterize San Jose, which will showcase our diversity, provide valuable resource material for researchers and build bridges of understanding.”

Digital storytelling is a process merging personal story with video, still-frame imagery, music and voice to create a personal multimedia story. The process takes several hours spread out over two sessions to complete. The resulting stories, roughly three to five minutes in length, will be characterized by reminiscences about neighborhoods, schools, jobs and family, or tales of special interests and activities.

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People who are interested in creating a personal digital story are encouraged to bring the following things to their recording session:

- A story to tell
- Photos to illustrate the story, if available (digital copies on CD or a digital camera memory card are ideal, but a scanner will be available if needed)
- Home movies on DVD or VHS

Those who don't have music, photographs or video can still tell a story. All participants will be able to take home a copy of their story on CD or DVD. For more information, visit the project web page at www.sjlibrary.org/digitalstory.htm or call (408) 808-2167.

Although the initial pilot focuses on stories of San Jose's Latino community, the project will expand as time and resources allow, eventually encompassing a wide range of stories and themes that explore and build local community. Stories from the pilot project will be showcased at a public screening in September. All stories become part of central "California of the Past" repository website (www.digitalstorystation.com), an initiative of the California State Library to augment traditional document-based archives with the living memories of community members.

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The opinions expressed in **California of the Past** digital stories do not necessarily reflect the position or policies of U.S. Institute of Museum and Library Services, California State Library, **MEDIA ARTS CENTER SAN DIEGO** or their partners and no official endorsement should be inferred.

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