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'Entwined Meadow' Illuminated Art Installation Brightens Bay Area Residents' Lives and Hearts

San Francisco, CA, 2/10/21 – If ever there was a time when our social and emotional well-being needed an extra spark, guidance, and support, it has been the last months. As the Bay Area and nation have seen an increase in Covid-19 infections, under strict pandemic mandates and closures, and the insurrection before the inauguration, we are all dealing with complex personal, local, and national level pressures.

Since its opening, Charles Gadeken's large-scale <u>illuminated installation, Entwined Meadow</u>, has been unique and fresh and among the most favored outdoor, evening destinations for Bay Area residents. The artwork has brought thousands of visitors during winter days and long nights and has been much more than a unique installation for Golden Gate Park's 150th Anniversary. *It also acts as a critically needed point of joy, wonder, and engagement for area residents – welcoming physical distancing in a safe outdoor setting for all. Children and adults alike have delighted in its pulsating and ever-changing illumination of colors. The work has shown us first hand how the arts help us be resilient through the transference of hope and delight in real-time.*

The installation is a prime example of how art can connect us, heal and enchant the eye, mind, and heart. Many visitors come back time and time again to enjoy its beauty, magic, and cadence and with a sense of fulfillment, whether visiting alone or with a friend or loved one. It has also served as a special moment folks can share in their feeling of joy and amazement, as witnessed through thousands of shared photos and videos. Just two examples include <u>Joey Yee's uplifting video</u> or <u>SOOT.TV's playful video</u> on YouTube.

Entwined Meadow brings you to a whimsical land where visitors explore paths and sit under one of three metal sculpted trees. The trees range from 12 to 20 feet tall with colorful and ever-changing illuminated canopies as large as 30 feet wide. In addition to the trees, flower cluster sculptures comprised of 2,000 LED lights at varying heights invite a dynamic and dazzling experience of radiating light and color. Lighting effects are inspired by nature and build a sense of magic and wonderment: raindrops, lightning, thunderstorms, windblown grass and leaves, ripples on a pond.

Gadeken claims as he's lived in San Francisco for close to 40 years, it's always been a dream to put a sculpture in Golden Gate Park. His idea was to make sculptural objects reminiscent of the greatest of all designers — nature — but transformed by technology. "This is a post-nature forest, using design, technology, and much collaboration." Drew Becher, CEO of the SF Parks Alliance, lead project partner of Entwined, issued an uplifting statement. "We are honored to partner with Charles and SF Rec and Parks to bring this amazing public art experience to Golden Gate Park for the 150th Anniversary and bring some much-needed joy to San Franciscans."

Entwined Meadow, launched Dec. 10th, is located in Golden Gate Park's Peacock Meadow near the Conservatory of Flowers. It will remain open until early April with a possible extension. This public art installation, made possible by the City of San Francisco and the Park's 150th Anniversary Fund, is ADA accessible.

To learn more about Gadeken, his art, and Entwined Meadow, visit: <u>charlesgadeken.com</u>