San Francisco’s Downtown Union Square to display 120 CA Community College Missing Student statues

SAN FRANCISCO, California, August 6, 2004 — City College of San Francisco (CCSF) is bringing 120 life-size statues, called “The Missing Student Art Installation Project,” to San Francisco’s Union Square beginning Friday, August 20 and continuing through Monday, August 30.

A special kick-off event where the public can meet the student artists, see a documentary about the making of the statues, and listen to music, will be held on Friday, August 20 from 5 to 7 P.M. In addition to the student artists, Mayor Gavin Newsom of San Francisco, national and state legislative leaders, Dr. Philip R. Day, Jr., Chancellor of City College of San Francisco, are expected to attend. Also attending will be Roger Baird, Chair of the CCSF Art Department, who was art director of the project. The community is welcome at the kick-off and the 10-day display. Admission is free of charge.

“The Modern Terracottas” is how many people are describing the 120 life size sculptures made by community college students from 70 college campuses across the state to stand-in for the 175,000 California adults who did not get in the door of any community college this year because of budget cuts and fee increases.

The sculptures represent the diversity of California college students, the quality of a community college education, the importance of a college education, and the devastation felt by students when they realize they are not able to go to college through no fault of their own.

For further information on the Missing Students statues, please contact Leslie P. Smith, Dean, Governmental Relations, City College of San Francisco, telephone 415-239-3701, or visit the website www.keepthedoorsopen.org.

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