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Press Release

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New Art at the Airport Exhibit Showcases Monterey County's Film Legacy

“Lights, Camera, Monterey!” Celebrates Local Film History

MONTEREY, CA, March 11, 2025 - The Monterey Regional Airport (MRY) and the Monterey County Film Commission (MCFC) are proud to unveil the latest installment of the *Art at the Airport* program, “Lights, Camera, Monterey!” - a visually compelling and immersive exhibit celebrating Monterey County’s rich film history. This exhibit highlights the region’s starring role in cinematic history, bringing to life the iconic films and television productions that have showcased Monterey’s breathtaking landscapes and vibrant culture.

The “Lights, Camera, Monterey!” exhibit was developed through a collaborative effort between MRY and MCFC, with dedicated contributions from Airport Project Committee members Paula Joy MacNab, Karilyn Van Oosten, Chris Carpenter, Chris Van Oosten and Garland Thompson, Jr. A special thanks goes to Chris Van Oosten for his tireless leadership in organizing timelines, designing the displays, and ensuring the vision came to life. Special recognition also goes to Chris Carpenter, faculty and lecturer with the Cinematic Arts and Technology Department at California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB). He and CSUMB were instrumental in procuring cinematic artifacts for the year-long exhibit from the university’s collection, as well as his own.

“We are thrilled to partner with the Monterey Regional Airport to share the magic of Monterey’s film legacy with travelers from around the world,” said Garland Thompson, Jr., President of the Monterey County Film Commission. “This exhibit offers visitors a ‘reel stroll’ through the region’s cinematic history, providing a glimpse into why so many filmmakers have chosen Monterey County as their backdrop.”

From classic Hollywood productions to modern streaming hits, Monterey County has long been a sought-after destination for filmmakers. The exhibit invites visitors to explore behind-the-scenes stories, film memorabilia, and historical highlights that showcase the county’s deep ties to the entertainment industry.

“This type of partnership demonstrates that MRY strives to enhance and exhibit the diversity of the region locally, nationally and around the world” said Airport Executive Director, Michael La Pier.

Travelers passing through MRY are encouraged to take in the exhibit and experience firsthand the allure of Monterey County’s landscapes, which continues to inspire filmmakers worldwide. The Monterey County Film Commission hopes this display not only entertains but also encourages future productions to consider the region as their next filming location.

For more information about the Monterey County Film Commission and its work in supporting local film production, visit filmmonterey.org.

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About Monterey Regional Airport

Monterey Regional Airport (MRY) is Monterey County's only commercial service airport and accommodates over 600,000 passengers each year. The airport services nine nonstop markets with an average of 17 daily departures. MRY is committed to providing our customers with superior services in a safe, secure, and professional environment. Be sure to visit montereyairport.com or follow @montereyairport on Facebook, Instagram, and X.

About the Monterey County Film Commission

The Monterey County Film Commission was created by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors in 1987 to attract and support film production in the region. The commission works to promote economic development through the film industry while preserving and showcasing Monterey County's natural and cultural assets.