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**Street Artist Meg Zany to Install Mural on Downtown Women's Center Residence
"Diversity Is a Gift" Image to Appear on Permanent Supportive Housing Building for Women**

LOS ANGELES – On Thursday, March 8, 2018, International Women's Day, Los Angeles-based-street artist Meg Zany will emblazon the Downtown Women's Center's (DWC) Los Angeles Street residence building with one of her signature feminist murals. The building houses 48 formerly homeless women in permanent supportive housing units and was the original site of DWC's services and programs which began in 1978.

Best known for her "Courage Has No Gender" campaign, a series of portraits of well-known individuals who have defied gender norms throughout history, Zany began putting up her work in the streets of Los Angeles in 2016. Since then, she has brought her message of female empowerment to cities around world, expanding her reach to San Francisco, Chicago, New York, London, Paris, and more. Through her work, Zany aims to inspire people who are experiencing challenges related to their gender, a sentiment that's at the heart of DWC's work to end women's homelessness in Los Angeles. The "Diversity Is a Gift" mural, designed by Zany to reflect DWC's mission and values, celebrates women, creativity, and the gift of diversity.

"It means the world to me to paint this special piece for the community right in my hometown of Los Angeles," said Zany. "Many people don't know how they can help end the homelessness crisis—by painting this mural, I'm hoping to spread awareness about women's homelessness and inspire people to get involved in any way that they can."

"Meg represents the feminist ideals and values that led me to start my company, Arsenic," shared Amanda Micallef, co-founder of Arsenic, a media company that represents Zany. "She's a brilliant artist and a multi-faceted female who believes in using her gifts to inspire others. We're honored to collaborate with DWC as it empowers women in Los Angeles to reach personal stability."

"We're thrilled to partner with an artist whose work beautifully captures what DWC is all about: celebrating and lifting up women, while also addressing the societal injustices they face," said Melissa Tillman, DWC's Chief Development and Communications Officer. "This mural will inspire viewers and serve as an important conversation piece in our community for many years to come."

Zany will paint the mural on the south wall of DWC's Los Angeles Street residence building (333 S. Los Angeles St., LA, 90013) on Thursday, March 8, 2018 from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

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About Downtown Women's Center

The Downtown Women's Center (DWC) is the only organization in Los Angeles focused exclusively on serving and empowering women experiencing homelessness and formerly homeless women. DWC envisions a Los Angeles with every woman housed and on a path to personal stability. Its mission is to end homelessness for women in greater Los Angeles through housing, wellness, and advocacy. Founded in 1978, DWC was the first permanent supportive housing provider for women in the U.S. Learn more at www.DowntownWomensCenter.org.

About Meg Zany

Meg Zany is a Los Angeles-based street artist best known for her "Courage Has No Gender" campaign. Zany began putting up work in the streets in 2016 starting with her biplane + banner image and has quickly evolved her practice and expanded her reach from the streets of Los Angeles to cities including Miami, Montreal, London, Kraków, Lyon, Paris, Berlin, San Francisco, Portland, Seattle, Chicago, Philadelphia, New York, West Palm Beach, New Orleans, and Austin. The nature of Zany's work is a celebration of contrasts, for instance, bold, assertive text paired with figures that connect with viewers on a different level, often evoking childhood nostalgia. One of Zany's most iconic stencils is of Amelia Earhart paired with the mantra, "Courage Has No Gender" intended to generate awareness regarding societal gender disparity and encourage viewers to create an optimistic future. As a female street artist actively working in a male-dominated field, Zany herself is a modern iteration of Earhart as she fearlessly shares her hopeful message.