

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center to reopen to the public on July 8 following temporary COVID-19 closure



SANTA ROSA, Calif., July 1, 2020—The Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center is scheduled to reopen on Wednesday, July 8, and resume its standard hours (Monday, Wednesday-Friday, 11:00 am-5:00 pm; Saturday-Sunday, 10:00 am-5:00 pm), though it will retain its winter schedule of being closed on Tuesdays. Following guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), the State of California, and the County of Sonoma, the Museum will reopen with new COVID-19 safety measures in place in an effort to provide a safe, low-risk environment for all visitors and staff. Visitors can also look forward to several new features, including new exhibitions and a fresh rotation of biographical items from the Museum’s archives.

“In this time of daily unease, we are grateful to be reopening our doors and providing a place for people to have a joyful escape,” said Jean Schulz, widow of Charles Schulz and Schulz Museum board president. “I think we could all use some good cheer right now.”

The Museum has been closed since March 16 due to the shelter in place order issued by Sonoma County in accordance with the state of California to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. The order was lifted for indoor museums in Sonoma County allowing them to reopen as of June 19 with governmental guidelines in place. As such, visitors to the Museum can expect new policies such as required face coverings and social distancing (denoted in high traffic areas by Snoopy paw prints on the floor). The Museum's reopening policies and precautions can be viewed at schulzmuseum.org.

The Museum also reopens under new leadership. Karen Johnson recently announced her retirement as director after 15 years at the organization's helm. Gina Huntsinger, who has been the general manager of Snoopy's Home Ice for the past three years and was the Museum's marketing director for 12 years prior, will be stepping into the role as of July 1.

"While this is an unusual way to start my tenure as the Museum's director, I am so excited to return to my roots of celebrating the legacy of Charles Schulz and his art," Huntsinger said. "During the temporary closure, the staff took the opportunity to deeply clean and revitalize the building. We are looking forward to welcoming the public back and sharing some laughs—even if under the cover of our masks!"

Current exhibitions include [Lucy! Fussbudget to Feminist](#), which opened just one day before the museum's temporary closure, and is the first exhibition to focus exclusively on the *Peanuts* character Lucy. Now visitors will have a chance to view it in its full splendor through March 7, 2021. Also on view is [Greetings, Charlie Brown! The Peanuts-Hallmark Connection](#) (through September 27, 2020), with a new exhibition, [Girl Power in Peanuts](#) opening at the end of the month (July 29–December 7, 2020.)

A new addition to the Museum will also be revealed in mid-July in the Museum's Biographical Gallery. Four large cases with built-in drawers will be installed to allow more artwork, correspondence, and personal effects from Schulz to be shared with the public.

"We're taking this opportunity to curate the cases from scratch," Curator Benjamin L. Clark said. "In the nearly 20 years since the Museum opened, new objects, stories, and information have come to light, giving us a better understanding and a more complete view of Charles Schulz. These updated cases will reflect our best and latest research in a way that we're excited to share."

[Summer Camps](#) for grades 1–6 will be offered in the Museum's new education classrooms, Othmar Hall, from July 6 through August 14, with COVID-19 [safety guidelines](#) in place.

For those who are high-risk for COVID-19, or limiting travel and out-of-house activities, the Museum has increased its offerings online, including a [Schulz Museum at Home](#) webpage where fans of all ages can access a variety of free resources and activities to enjoy from home. [Online art and cartooning classes](#) are also available for kids, teens, and adults—a new offering that the Museum introduced in June and one that has been well received with students joining in from many different locations and time zones.

Public programs have temporarily moved online as well, with a new *Peanuts* live drawing series led by Charles M. Schulz Creative Associates staff artists, including [How to Draw Woodstock](#) on July 13 and [How to Draw Snoopy](#) on August 10, plus a panel discussion on July 27, [Exploring Intersectional Identities Through Queer Comics](#).

"This fall marks the 70th anniversary of *Peanuts*," Huntsinger said. "Whether you join us in person or online, we invite you to connect with Snoopy, Charlie Brown, and the *Peanuts* Gang and see why this comic strip has endured for so many generations."

ABOUT

Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center
2301 Hardies Lane, Santa Rosa, CA 95403
(707) 579-4452 | schulzmuseum.org
Facebook, Instagram, Twitter: @schulzmuseum

The Charles M. Schulz Museum and Research Center opened in August 2002 to fulfill its mission of preserving, displaying, and interpreting the art of Charles M. Schulz. Located 50 miles north of San Francisco in Santa Rosa, California, the Schulz Museum presents changing exhibitions and programming that build an understanding of cartoonists and cartoon art; illustrate the scope of Charles M. Schulz's multi-faceted career; communicate the stories, inspirations, and influences of Charles M. Schulz; and celebrate the life of Charles M. Schulz and the *Peanuts* characters.

HOURS AND ADMISSION

Weekdays 11:00 am–5:00 pm (Closed Tuesdays)
Weekends 10:00 am–5:00 pm

Museum Members, children 3 and under: Free
Adults: \$12.00
Seniors 62 and over (with ID): \$8.00
Children 4-18 and college students (with ID): \$5.00

MEDIA CONTACT

Stephanie King, marketing director, stephanie@schulzmuseum.org, (707) 284-1268.

###