

****SAMPLE PRESS RELEASE****

VISIONQUILT

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Press Release: *Vision Quilt* to Prevent Gun Violence Coming to San Francisco

The first California display of the “Vision Quilt” is coming to San Francisco on February 3, 2016 as part of a free workshop for people interested in joining the rapidly growing national project to help prevent gun violence.

The [Vision Quilt Project](#) is a grassroots effort that is using the power of creative expression to cultivate a new conversation about gun safety in the United States. Through the making and exhibiting of quilt panels created by thousands of people across the country the group believes voices will be heard and change *is* possible.

“As participants from diverse political, religious and racial backgrounds create art and engage in dialogue, we believe a new culture will emerge,” says Vision Quilt founder Cathy DeForest. She hopes the effort will lead to improvements in gun safety, including new legislation, mental health laws, police training and public education.

More than 100 original panels will be on display at the **San Francisco Center for the Book at 375 Rhode Island Street**. The display and free workshop are open to the public on **Wednesday, February 3 from 6:30 p.m to 9:15 p.m**. DeForest will provide guidance to panel makers and says you do not have to be an artist to participate.

Since the Vision Quilt Project began as a grassroots effort in Ashland, Oregon in September 2015, more than 250 18 x 24” panels have been created by concerned community members far and wide. The youngest panel maker is just four and the oldest in 95. Several panel makers are gun owners.

The [Vision Quilt website](#) features a “[virtual quilt](#)” and a series of panel [workshop photos](#) as well as a [mission statement and goals](#).

If you are interested in previewing the panels or would like to talk with a founding member of the project, please contact us at visionquilt@gmail.com or call 541-690-6976.

Photos and video of the workshops and panels available for the media on request. We look forward to sharing the Vision Quilt with you.



Above: Vision Quilt Founder Cathy DeForest with a display of the panels.
 Below: Participants work on panels during a recent workshop; panels close up.

