

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Art of the Olympians Al Oerter Center of Excellence opens in downtown Fort Myers

LEE COUNTY, FL – Visitors to The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel in southwest Florida have an exciting, new opportunity to view art by worldwide Olympic medalists with today's opening of the *Art of the Olympians Al Oerter Center of Excellence*.

Located in downtown Fort Myers in the former City Pier building on the Caloosahatchee River, the opening marks the fulfillment of Olympians and Olympic enthusiasts, who along with the late, four-time consecutive gold medalist, Al Oerter, sought to use their passion for art and sports to create an arena to celebrate excellence.

Art of the Olympians features the art of international Olympic medalists, educational programs for children and adults and special events. Presented works include those by Olympians Al Oerter, discus, USA; Florence Griffith-Joyner, sprints, USA; Peggy Fleming, figure skating, USA; Liston Bochette, decathlon and bobsled, Puerto Rico; John-Blaise Evequoz, fencing, Switzerland; Kader Klouci, long jumping, France; Roald Bradstock, javelin, UK; Shane Gould, swimming, Australia and many others.

The exhibition is free for children and \$2 for adults. Please call for hours of operation. For a complete list of works on display and details, visit www.artoftheolympians.com or call 239-332-5055.

Art of the Olympians has utilized the talents of professionals in architecture, design, programming and communication for the new center. A palm-lined street with monument

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bronzes welcomes visitors to the 10,000-square-foot facility which will house displays, art exhibitions, traveling collections, academic presentations and more.

Dedicated to inspiring creativity and stimulating change through an international program of art, education and outreach initiatives, Art of the Olympians is only the fourth location in the U.S. to be granted the rights to use the U.S.A. Olympic name and rings on site.

For information on planning a vacation to The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel and special value-added packages, visit www.FortMyersSanibel.com. Also visit the VCB's Twitter page at www.Twitter.com/SocialLeeVCB (@SocialLeeVCB) or become a fan of The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel at www.Facebook.com/SocialLeeVCB.

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EDITOR'S NOTE: The Beaches of Fort Myers & Sanibel in southwest Florida includes: Sanibel Island, Captiva Island, Fort Myers Beach, Fort Myers, Bonita Springs, Estero, Cape Coral, Pine Island, Boca Grande & Outer islands, North Fort Myers, Lehigh Acres. Images available upon request.