



PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**Quest Plaza Breaks Ground in Downtown Livermore
Welcomes Fremont Bank Foundation as Naming Sponsor**

Quest Science Center held a groundbreaking ceremony for Quest Plaza at Stockmen’s Park in Downtown Livermore earlier this month, marking the start of construction for the non-profit organization’s first community venue.

Located at the corner of Railroad and South Livermore Avenues, Quest Plaza will be an outdoor gathering space measuring 5,000 square feet, 3,500 of which will be available for hosting community programs, science camps, music events and more. Once complete, Quest Plaza will comfortably hold 100 people and in addition to the landscaped grounds and gathering space, will feature a weather station and rotating displays.

“It’s very exciting to finally have a physical space under construction,” said Alan Burnham, Quest Science Center Founder and CFO. “Not only does it give Quest a place to interact with the Tri-Valley community, but also to hold events where they can learn about science in a fun way.”

Also last week, Quest Science Center welcomed the Fremont Bank Foundation as Naming Sponsor for Quest Plaza. “Fremont Bank and Fremont Bank Foundation are long-standing advocates for education in our region,” Burnham said. “We truly appreciate their generosity and look forward to our partnership.”

“Supporting Quest Science Center right here in the heart of downtown Livermore is a natural extension of our ongoing commitment to the communities where we live and work,” said Ken Jones, Senior Vice President of Retail Banking, Fremont Bank. “The Quest Plaza gathering space offers youth a chance to be hands-on and collaborative as they learn more about science and technology while enjoying the outdoors. Fremont Bank Foundation encourages young people’s education always.”

Design of Quest Plaza was undertaken by the science center’s Plaza Committee, led by Chris Gates and Gina Bonanno. A key consideration during the process was the importance of providing shade, since it is an outdoor facility. “We started with a hyperbolic saddle design that is symbolic of the park and appears in various ways in science,” Burnham said, “then modified it to provide more shade coverage.”

In addition to Fremont Bank Foundation, a number of companies, individuals, and community groups have already come forward to sponsor portions of Quest Plaza, including Topcon Positioning Systems, which is funding the weather station. Additional donors will be listed on the Quest Science Center website.

“We also want to thank the City of Livermore and their staff, as well as Mayor Bob Woerner, former Mayor John Marchand, and La Roza Construction, the general contractor for the project,” said Burnham.

In coming weeks, Quest will unveil a brick-naming program for Quest Plaza, providing another opportunity for individuals, families, organizations and businesses to support science in the community. The personalized bricks will eventually be installed along walkways at the venue.

“Quest Plaza allows us to connect with the community and start bringing programs and events to them while we plan for the construction of our primary facility,” Burnham said, referring to the 20,000 square foot Quest Science Center Complex, also destined for Stockmen’s Park.

Quest launched their first program at Stockmen’s Park on June 26, “The Science of Bubbles,” the first in a 5-part free community science series called “Science@Stockmen’s Park.” The series will take place on Saturdays, once a month, through October, is open to the general public, and is appropriate for curious minds of all ages.

“There’s a feeling of excitement at Quest,” Burnham said. “After three years, we’re finally getting a place where we can welcome people.” To learn more about Quest Science Center, Quest Plaza and Science@Stockmen’s Park, visit www.quest-science.org.

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PHOTO CREDIT: Quest Science Center

PHOTO 1 – Graphic representation of Quest Plaza at Stockmen’s Park.

PHOTO 2 – Groundbreaking Ceremony featuring L-R: In Front: Quest CEO Monya Lane, Evelyn Klein, Mason Klein, Livermore Council Member Gina Bonanno, former Livermore Mayor John Marchand. In Back: Quest Board Member Rick Stulen, Livermore Mayor Bob Woerner, Quest Plaza Project Leader Chris Gates, Quest Board Member Vaughn Draggoo, Quest Founder Alan Burnham, La Roza Construction Owner Eric Klein.

ABOUT QUEST SCIENCE CENTER: The mission of Quest Science Center is to connect everyone in the Tri-Valley to the value of science by offering welcoming, inclusive experiences for people of all ages and backgrounds that inspire and nurture the feeling of belonging and excitement in the exploration of science. Founded in 2018 as the Livermore Science and Society Center, Quest Science Center is a 501(c)3 nonprofit (82-4865787). Volunteer, donate and find out more about Quest at www.quest-science.org.