



Press contacts:
Rosemary Jones—
Rosemaryj@nordicmuseum.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

National Nordic Museum Unveils New Labyrinth on August 21

The Museum celebrates the permanent outdoor feature with a ribbon cutting ceremony, special guest speakers, and kids crafts.

Seattle, WA—On August 21, the National Nordic Museum will unveil their newest permanent feature: a 32-foot by 35-foot labyrinth by the south entrance of the Museum. Over 500 labyrinths were constructed in the Nordic countries and scholars believe that these mazes served multiple functions. In Nordic coastal communities, for example, labyrinths might have offered protection during perilous fishing expeditions.

Internationally acclaimed artist Gordon Huether created the design for the National Nordic Museum's labyrinth based upon the traditional 7-ring Cretan labyrinth, a common pattern of Nordic labyrinths with links to Viking Age sites in Ireland. Huether advised the Museum's team on the form and the technique used to etch the final design on the Museum's Fisherman's Sun Terrace. The finished labyrinth was installed in early August.

The official opening ceremony will take place on August 21, at 11am to 12pm. CEO and Executive Director of the Nordic Museum Eric Nelson will host the unveiling, inviting special guests to speak in the Osberg Great Hall, a large event space directly connected to The Fisherman's Sun Terrace.

"We anticipate that this labyrinth will be a great attraction for younger guests as well as adult visitors," said Nelson. "In celebration of the opening, we are delighted

to welcome our guest from the Irish Consulate in San Francisco and local Irish-American community as well as representatives from our Nordic community.”

Guest speakers at the opening ceremony will be California-based artist Huether, Robert O'Driscoll, the Consul General of Ireland to the Western United States, Helge Marstrander, Consul/Deputy Chief of Mission and Royal Norwegian Consulate General in San Francisco, Dr. Terje Leiren, Museum Trustee and Professor Emeritus of Scandinavian Studies at the University of Washington, and Jeanne Kohl-Welles, King County Councilmember.

“The Nordic labyrinth project was made possible by a generous grant from King County, thanks to the tireless support of Councilmember Kohl-Welles, who has been a long-time supporter and ardent champion of the National Nordic Museum” said Erik Pihl, Director of Development for the National Nordic Museum.

National Nordic Museum Special Event
Labyrinth Unveiling and Ribbon Cutting Event
Aug 21, 11am - 12pm PST
Free event, please see nordicmuseum.org/calendar

Free kids' craft activities will be held adjacent to the labyrinth in the Museum's craft room, 10am to 1pm. On August 21, entrance fees to the Museum's exhibitions will be waived for youth 18 and under when accompanied by a paying adult.

More About Gordon Huether

Gordon Huether's large-scale art projects have been seen in airports, universities, hotels, civic buildings, museums and many other institutions around the world. Huether recently completed an immersive canyon-themed art installation at the new Salt Lake City International Airport. Huether has won several awards for his work, including the National Design Award by the Society of American Registered Architects, and a public art award for his work at the Point Defiance Zoo & Aquarium.

More About The National Nordic Museum

The National Nordic Museum is the only museum in the United States that showcases the impact and influence of Nordic values and innovation in contemporary society and tells the story of 12,000 years of Nordic history and culture, across all five Nordic countries (Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, and Sweden) as well as three semi-autonomous regions (Greenland, the Faroe Islands, and Åland) and the cultural region of Sápmi. The Museum shares Nordic culture with people of all ages and backgrounds by exhibiting art and objects, preserving collections, providing educational and cultural experiences, and serving as a community gathering place.