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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RUBY BRIDGES VISITS CAD STUDIOS; MAYA ANGELOU COMES FOR A FILM TAPING SESSION AND VISIT; JOYCE TAYLOR JOINS THE STEERING COMMITTEE AS EXECUTIVE IN RESIDENCE



OAKLAND, CA—Mario Chiodo has chosen Ruby Bridges to be the twenty-fifth humanitarian represented on the monument due to the courage and strength she exhibited during the early days of school de-segregation in the Southeastern United States. On November 14, 1960 in New Orleans, six-year-old Ruby Bridges was the first child to enroll in a state-enforced, newly integrated public school. Although white students were removed from the school by their parents when Ruby enrolled, she continued to attend school for an entire year as the sole student in her class; with the guidance from a wonderful teacher, Barbara Henry, she learned to read and write. She now heads the Ruby Bridges Foundation that promotes and encourages the values of tolerance, respect and appreciation of all differences.

On October 27, 2006, Ms. Bridges was visiting an elementary school in Alameda and also came to visit the CAD studios. Mario Chiodo and staff were thrilled to meet

Ms. Bridges and listen to her speak of her more recent experiences. Ruby Bridges plans to re-visit Oakland soon and will participate further in the *RT* project.

On November 1, the CAD studios were graced again by a visit from Dr. Maya Angelou. Friends and supporters of the *RT* project, including Mayor-elect Ron Dellums, gathered for a celebratory luncheon later that day in honor of Dr. Angelou. Carrie Williams and Christina Brigham, two apprentices in the *RT* project were also invited to the luncheon and briefly spoke with Dr. Angelou. “I believe that what she said was very powerful and full of truth. Meeting Dr. Angelou was a blessing, and I felt like nothing will ever compare or replace that feeling,” said Miss Brigham. And, as stated by Dr. Angelou during her interview, “...young people can see human beings (*on the monument*) who look like them--black, white, Asian or Latino and say ‘Hmm, I could be like that; that’s someone with whom I can identify’”.

Joyce Taylor, Senior VP of AT&T - External Affairs, North (San Francisco) has joined the *RT* Steering Committee team. She holds the position of Executive in Residence at CAD and provides leadership and guidance on the education components of the project. Taylor has 27 years of experience as a leader in the telecommunications industry including overseeing legislative and governmental affairs for both SBC and AT&T. She serves on the Board of Directors for the First Tee of San Jose, Women’s Forum West, the Northwestern Regional Board of Operation Hope, and the Executive Campaign Advisory Board of the United Negro College Fund.

CONTACTS: Francine Agapoff, VP of Design Development, Chiodo Art Development,
(510) 663—8144, ext. 12

Joseph Haraburda, President & CEO, Oakland Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce,
(510) 874-4810