HEADLANDS CENTER FOR THE ARTS’ NEW PLAZA AND SITE-SPECIFIC ARTWORKS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2017

The Commons, a new outdoor space designed by Bay Area firm CMG Landscape Architecture, enables more art programming and features three permanent commissions by Ball-Nogues Studio, Chris Kabel, and Nathan Lynch.

Sausalito, CA, June 22, 2017 – Headlands Center for the Arts today announced that The Commons, the newest artist-led enhancement to its historic campus located in the Golden Gate National Recreation Area just north of San Francisco, will open to the public on Sunday, September 17, 2017, with a free daytime celebration featuring art installations, live music, family-friendly activities, food trucks, and more (opening event details below).

The $1.8 million project—sited between and immediately surrounding Headlands’ two main buildings—reimagines an unpaved parking lot and gravel pathway as a thoughtfully designed outdoor space for art and everyday use. The Commons expands the multi-disciplinary art center’s services for resident artists and day visitors with more than 3,000 square feet of new programming space; three newly commissioned permanent artworks by local, national, and international artists; and additional places to gather, relax, and enjoy the area’s remarkable natural beauty.
“The Commons is a significant milestone in Headlands’ ongoing campus transformation and builds on our legacy of innovative space re-use in partnership with the National Park Service,” says Headlands executive director Sharon Maidenberg. “We’re thrilled to share this beautiful new resource, which allows us to tap more fully into Headlands’ unrivaled nexus of creativity and the natural environment, and offers more ways for visitors to connect with art and each other.”

“Headlands is a long-standing, primary force in the Bay Area and has played a significant role in fueling the region’s renowned cultural innovation for more than 35 years,” says U.S. Congressman Jared Huffman, a committed environmentalist and advocate of the project. “At a time when fostering creativity and maintaining accessible outdoor spaces on public land are more important than ever, The Commons is an inspiring development and a welcoming place for all.”

A NEW SPACE FOR PLACE
Envisioned in partnership with Bay Area-based CMG Landscape Architecture—whose past and current projects include SFMOMA’s rooftop sculpture garden, the Moscone Center expansion, and the redevelopment of Treasure Island as a public art destination—The Commons includes a new central plaza with a casual outdoor amphitheater for performances and events; a new pedestrian walkway that connects the artist residency studios and main public buildings on campus; and a comprehensive redesign of the current public entryway that’s more welcoming and accessible.

View of the central plaza at the heart of The Commons; rendering by CMG Landscape Architecture

The elegant, site-appropriate design redefines the experience of visiting Headlands while honoring the campus’ sensitive natural setting and its unique history as a former military base on national park land. The central plaza includes a concrete overlook and series of terraces that reference military bunkers and shape views toward the nearby Rodeo Lagoon watershed.
and Gerbode Valley. Native plants such as lupines, Wyethia, California poppy, and assorted grasses—grown in the Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy’s nursery—and eucalyptus frame the smaller spaces within The Commons.

“Our design resonates with Headlands’ overlapping cultural and natural histories, creates more social interaction, and carefully places the architectural elements in a way that allows them to be discovered almost as artifacts,” says CMG principal Kevin Conger. “The use of simple, natural materials such as raw concrete, reclaimed wood, crushed stone paving, and native plants draws the larger landscape through the Commons site.”

NEW ART COMMISSIONS UNVEILED

*The Commons* is the latest installment in Headlands’ commissions program, which invites artists to reimagine the organization’s physical spaces as site-specific art projects, giving them new meaning while honoring their original designs and architectural integrity.

Previous commissions in the series include six projects: *Rodeo Room and Eastwing* by David Ireland and Mark Thompson (1986); *The Mess Hall* by Ann Hamilton (1989); *The Latrine* by Bruce Tomb and John Randolph (1988); *Building 960* by Leonard Hunter and Mark Cavagnero (1999); *Reverse Ark Victory Garden* by Amy Franceschini and Michael Swaine (2008); and *The Key Room* by Carrie Hott (2016).

In keeping with this rich legacy, *The Commons* will incorporate three new permanent outdoor artworks:
• **Welcome Terrace East & West** by Ball-Nogues Studio
Based on the tradition of Kintsugi or “golden joinery”—the Japanese art of mending broken pottery with lacquer and powdered gold, silver, or platinum—**Ball-Nogues Studio** will repurpose Headlands’ original broken concrete driveway to create **Welcome Terrace East & West (2017)**, a vibrant new artist-designed promenade. The Los Angeles-based artists, whose work is included in the permanent collections of MoMA, New York, and the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, will collaborate closely with the architect to reshape the fragments and reassemble them using colorful terrazzo mortar that honors repair as part of the history of the site rather than something to disguise.

• **Wall Space** by Chris Kabel
Created by Rotterdam-based designer **Chris Kabel**, **Wall Space (2017)** is a sculptural installation that turns Headlands’ building façade into a canvas for commissioned texts. Hidden armature, inspired by historical movie theater marquees, features a modular lettering system rendered in transparent metal mesh, which responds to changing light conditions and makes the text readable to viewers as a cast shadow. For the inaugural installation, which will change over the course of the year, Headlands has commissioned San Francisco-based writer **Claudia La Rocco** (Headlands Artist in Residence, 2013) to curate texts from **Wendy Rose** and **Tongo Martin-Eisen**, poets whom La Rocco describes as “formally dazzling and politically fierce.” **Wall Space** will launch with a new poem by Rose relating to her Hopi and Miwok ancestry and the Native American history of the Marin Headlands.

• **Doubledrink** by Nathan Lynch
A functional sculpture conceived by San Francisco-based artist **Nathan Lynch**, **Doubledrink (2017)** is a ceramic drinking fountain designed for two people to drink simultaneously while looking each other in the eye. “Bending over to drink and making that sucking face is awkward and intimate, and an incredibly symbolic way to begin a conversation,” says Lynch. The work continues his ongoing interest in political conflict and environmental issues by heightening the importance of sharing water as a limited natural resource and celebrating its power to bring friends and strangers together for a brief moment.

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**THE COMMONS OPENING DAY CELEBRATION**
Headlands Center for the Arts unveils **The Commons**, a new outdoor space for art.
Sunday, September 17, 2017, from 12 to 5 p.m.
944 For Barry, Sausalito, CA 94965, just over the Golden Gate Bridge.
Open to the public; free admission.
For more information, the public may call 415.331.2787 or visit headlands.org.

Festivities include:
• Dedication of the space by performance artist **Dohee Lee** and **Congressman Jared Huffman**.
• **Satellite Museum of Capitalism**, an exhibition by Oakland-based art collective **FICTILIS**.
• In Search of the Truth (The Truth Booth), an interactive mobile recording studio by Cause Collective, which includes members Hank Willis Thomas, Ryan Alexiev, Jim Ricks, and Will Sylvester.
• Installations & readings by 2016-17 Headlands’ affiliate artists and graduate fellows.
• Music by JD Samson (of Le Tigre and MEN).
• Conversations with Studio for Urban Projects.
• Artist-led activities for all ages by The Emotional Arcade, Bay Area Discovery Museum, and 500 Capp Street Foundation.
• Food trucks by Off the Grid.

ABOUT CMG LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
CMG Landscape Architecture is dedicated to creating vibrant, democratic public space in cities and designing thriving natural systems within the greater landscape. As President and founding Partner, Kevin Conger has helmed complex projects including the redevelopment of San Francisco’s Treasure Island and Hunters Point naval bases, the redesign of Market Street, the Yerba Buena Street Life Plan, SFMOMA’s rooftop sculpture garden, the ongoing expansion of Moscone Center, and a 15-year partnership with Crissy Field. More at cmgsite.com.

ABOUT BALL-NOGUES STUDIO
Led by Benjamin Ball and Gaston Nogues, Ball-Nogues Studio is a Los Angeles-based integrated design and fabrication practice working at the intersection of architecture, art, and industrial design. The studio has works in major museum collections nationwide and has received numerous honors, including three American Institute of Architects Design Awards. In 2007, they won MoMA’s PS1 Young Architects Program Competition; in 2011 they were selected for the Architectural League of New York’s Emerging Voices competition. More at ball-nogues.com.

ABOUT CHRIS KABEL
Dutch designer Chris Kabel combines an interest in the sciences with an intuitive, artistic approach to the design of everyday objects. He graduated from the Design Academy Eindhoven in the south Netherlands in 2001, and moved to Rotterdam in 2002 where he started his design practice. He currently works with design labels Breed and Valerie Objects, Galerie kreo in Paris, Portikus contemporary art institute in Frankfurt am Main, and Witte de With Center for Contemporary Art in Rotterdam. His works have been acquired by museums worldwide, including MoMA, New York; the Philadelphia Museum of Art; and the Stedelijk Museum in Amsterdam. He is a professor at Ecole Cantonale d’Art (ECAL) in Lausanne, Switzerland. More at chriskabel.com.

ABOUT NATHAN LYNCH
Bay Area-based artist Nathan Lynch explores political conflict, environmental upheaval, and notions of absurdity through hand-fabricated objects and the dramatic devices of storytelling. As a sculptor and performance artist, he makes collaboration and experimentation major components of his practice. Recent projects include Dead Reckoning for Bay Area Now 7 at Yerba Buena Center for the Arts and a residency with the Exploratorium (2010-12). Lynch was a Headlands Affiliate Artist (2001-03) and Artist in Residence (2011). He is also an associate professor and chair of the ceramics and glass
programs at California College of the Arts and is represented by Rena Bransten Gallery. More at nathanlynch.com.

ABOUT HEADLANDS
Founded in 1982, Headlands Center for the Arts operates a multi-disciplinary, international arts center best known for its dynamic public programs and highly lauded artist residency. Located in the coastal wilderness of the Marin Headlands, within the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, Headlands' historic nine-building campus is dedicated to process-driven exploration and risk-taking contemporary art in all disciplines. Its year-round programs provide visual artists, performers, musicians, and writers with opportunities for research, professional development, and peer-to-peer exchange at critical times in their careers. More at headlands.org.

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