اللوفر أبوظبي
LOUVRE ABU DHABI

Media alert

On its second public day, Louvre Abu Dhabi celebrates education

Louvre Abu Dhabi educators event, 12 November

www.louvreabudhabi.ae

Abu Dhabi, 12 November 2017: On 12 November, its second public day, Louvre Abu Dhabi celebrated educators and launched its education portfolio, a set of resources and materials which will inspire and engage children and students.

250 public and private schoolteachers, educators and university faculty members were invited to a special session with the Louvre Abu Dhabi Education and Interpretation team. The half-day event helped to familiarise the educators with the role of the museum in education, and the teaching tools and initiatives that Louvre Abu Dhabi offers.

The educators participated in the museum's family-friendly guided tours, which explore architecture, and masterpieces from the collections, and workshops such as mask-making, observational sketching and geometric patterns.

The guests were also welcomed to Louvre Abu Dhabi's Children's Museum, an exploratory space which engages young visitors. It presents its own special exhibitions, with artworks displayed in

specially-designed cases at children's eye level and a range of interactive, immersive activities. Its inaugural exhibition, *Travelling Shapes and Colours*, presents a selection of bright and beautiful artworks from different times and places, including Turkish ceramics, French decorative vases and an abstract painting by Paul Klee.

Hissa Al Dhaheri, Deputy Director of Louvre Abu Dhabi, said: "Louvre Abu Dhabi's approach encourages audiences – including children, teenagers and young adults – to look closely and think deeply about the artworks on display, and the wider cultures and ideas they represent. What we encounter in a museum can open our eyes, and transform our perspective on the world. That begins with education. We have carefully crafted the museum's offering for children and families, ensuring that visitors of every age will find something to inspire them and set them on a path of exploration – transforming lives for the better."

Children under 13 can enjoy unlimited free entry to Louvre Abu Dhabi. Visitors from 13 to 22 receive half-price entry. Tours and workshops are included in the price of admission throughout the museum's opening celebrations.

Tickets, tours and more information are available at www.louvreabudhabi.ae

On Saturday 11 November, Louvre Abu Dhabi opened its doors to the public for the first time. The highly-anticipated museum welcomed thousands of visitors to see the exceptional architecture and the masterpieces displayed throughout the galleries.

Louvre Abu Dhabi is a museum city (*medina*) which combines traditional Arabic inspiration with contemporary design and engineering. Waterfront promenades overlook the sea underneath the iconic dome, comprised of 7,850 unique metal stars set in a complex geometric pattern. When sunlight filters through, it creates a cinematic 'rain of light', reminiscent of the overlapping palm trees in the UAE's oases.

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Notes to editors:

ABOUT LOUVRE ABU DHABI

Louvre Abu Dhabi is a universal museum on Saadiyat Island that exhibits art and artefacts from ancient times to the present day. Designed by French architect Jean Nouvel, the museum contains 12 chapters in the galleries, special exhibition spaces, a Children's Museum, auditorium, restaurants, retail and a research centre. Surrounded by the sea, the buildings are connected by waterfront promenades beneath the museum's stunning dome.

Louvre Abu Dhabi has developed a rich collection of works originating from throughout human history and around the world, brought together to highlight universal themes and influences. To date, Louvre Abu Dhabi has acquired more than 600 artworks, exhibited alongside 300 works on loan from 13 leading French institutions.

Louvre Abu Dhabi was born out of a unique intergovernmental agreement between the governments of Abu Dhabi and France in 2007. As part of the agreement, Louvre Abu Dhabi has access to expertise and

training from 17 French partner institutions, as well as loans from 13 leading French museums for 10 years, and will benefit from special exhibitions organised by these institutions for 15 years.

ABOUT AGENCE FRANCE-MUSÉUMS

Agence France-Muséums has been entrusted with the task of carrying through the commitments of France to the project of the universal museum of Louvre Abu Dhabi, and of structuring the expertise of the French cultural institutions involved. It provides assistance and expertise to the authorities of the United Arab Emirates in the following areas: definition of the scientific and cultural programme, assistance in project management for architecture including museography, signage and multimedia projects, coordination of the loans from French collections and organisation of temporary exhibitions, guidance with the creation of a permanent collection, and support with the museum's policy on guests.

Chaired since its creation by Marc Ladreit de Lacharrière, UNESCO Goodwill Ambassador, Agence France-Muséums brings together Louvre Abu Dhabi's partner institutions: musée du Louvre, Centre Pompidou, musée d'Orsay and musée de l'Orangerie, Bibliothèque nationale de France, musée du quai Branly – Jacques Chirac, Réunion des Musées Nationaux et du Grand Palais (RMNGP), Château de Versailles, musée national des arts asiatiques-Guimet, musée de Cluny, École du Louvre, musée Rodin, Domaine National de Chambord, musée des Arts Décoratifs de Paris, Cité de la Céramique – Sèvres & Limoges, musée d'Archéologie nationale – Saint-Germain en Laye, Château de Fontainebleau, and OPPIC (Opérateur du patrimoine et des projets immobiliers de la culture). Jean-Luc Martinez chairs the Scientific Council of Agence France-Muséums.

ABOUT SAADIYAT CULTURAL DISTRICT

Saadiyat Cultural District on Saadiyat Island, Abu Dhabi, is devoted to culture and the arts. An ambitious cultural undertaking for the 21st century, it will be a nucleus for global culture, attracting local, regional and international guests with unique exhibitions, permanent collections, productions and performances. Its ground-breaking buildings will form a historical statement of the finest 21st century architecture; Zayed National Museum, Louvre Abu Dhabi and Guggenheim Abu Dhabi. These museums will complement and collaborate with local and regional arts and cultural institutions including universities and research centres.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT OF CULTURE AND TOURISM – ABU DHABI

The Department of Culture and Tourism – Abu Dhabi conserves and promotes the heritage and culture of Abu Dhabi emirate and leverages them in the development of a world-class, sustainable destination of distinction that enriches the lives of visitors and residents alike. The Department manages the emirate's tourism sector and markets the destination internationally through a wide range of activities aimed at attracting visitors and investment. Its policies, plans and programmes relate to the preservation of heritage and culture, including protecting archaeological and historical sites and to developing museums, including the Louvre Abu Dhabi, the Zayed National Museum and the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi. The Department of Culture and Tourism supports intellectual and artistic activities and cultural events to nurture a rich cultural environment and honour the emirate's heritage. A key role played by the Department is to create synergy in the destination's development through close co-ordination with its wide-ranging stakeholder base.

ABOUT MUSÉE DU LOUVRE

The Louvre in Paris opened in 1793, after the French Revolution, and from the very beginning was intended to provide inspiration for contemporary art. Courbet, Picasso, Dalí and so many others came to its hallowed halls to admire the old masters, copy them, immerse themselves in masterpieces and improve and fuel their own art. As an ancient royal residence, the Louvre is inextricably linked to eight centuries of French history. As a universal museum, its collections, among the best in the world, span many millennia and miles, from the Americas to Asia. Over 38,000 artworks are grouped into eight curatorial departments, including

universally-admired works such as the *Mona Lisa*, the *Winged Victory of Samothrace* and the *Venus de Milo*. With over 7.4 million guests in 2016, the Louvre ranks as one of the world's most visited museums.

ABOUT ATELIERS JEAN NOUVEL

Ateliers Jean Nouvel (AJN) is a world-renowned design firm that combines the disciplines of architecture, urban planning, interior design, landscape design, graphic design, and product design into a single integrated practice. Jean Nouvel has been the recipient of numerous prizes and awards over the years. In 1989, The Arab World Institute in Paris was awarded the Aga-Khan Prize. In 2000, Jean Nouvel received the Lion d'Or from the Venice Biennale. In 2001, he received the Royal Gold Medal of the Royal Institute of British Architects (RIBA), the Praemium Imperial of Japan's Fine Arts Association and the Borromini Prize for the Culture and Conference Center in Lucerne. Jean Nouvel was the recipient of the prestigious Pritzker Prize in 2008. The design of the Louvre Abu Dhabi began in 2006 with Jean Nouvel's Partner Architect Hala Wardé.

Among Jean Nouvel's principal completed buildings are the Arab World Institute, the Cartier Foundation and the Quai Branly Museum in Paris, the Lucerne Cultural and Congress Center, the extension to the Queen Sophia Museum in Madrid, the Guthrie Theater in Minneapolis and the Philharmonic Concert Halls in Copenhagen and Paris. Among the ongoing projects: the 53W53 Tour de Verre MoMA extension in New York, the Hekla and Duo office towers in Paris, the "The Artists' Garden" cultural complex in Qingdao and the National Art Museum of China (NAMOC) in Beijing.