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Financial News

Press Release

Source: Academy of Art University

Academy of Art Gives New Life to San Francisco Landmark

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University Plans to Restore 105-Year Old St. Brigid Catholic Church

SAN FRANCISCO--(BUSINESS WIRE)--Aug. 15, 2005--The Academy of Art University, San Francisco, is proud and pleased to announce its plans to renovate, restore and seismically upgrade the historic St. Brigid church on Broadway and Van Ness Avenue in San Francisco.

In keeping with its preservation policy, the fourth generation San Francisco Stephens family, owner of the Academy of Art University, is underwriting a seven million dollar restoration of this magnificent San Francisco landmark, which has been closed to the public for the past decade due to damages caused by the Loma Prieta earthquake.

"The Catholic Church and the arts have had a harmonious relationship that dates all the way back to the Renaissance. We are honored to be able to continue this historic alliance," says Richard Stephens, Chairman Emeritus of Academy of Art University.

"We are extremely thankful to the city of San Francisco, the Board of Supervisors and all the citizens who have shown such interest and concern in maintaining the integrity of this great piece of architecture. We are pleased to be working with the Hathaway Dinwiddie Construction Company on this project. We are especially grateful to Archbishop William Levada of the San Francisco Archdiocese for his help in this endeavor," says Dr. Elisa Stephens, President of the Academy of Art University.

Upon its reopening, St. Brigid will be used for community and public assemblies. The basement of the church will be used for the University's athletic program.

St. Brigid images and history can be found at <http://www.st-brigid.org>.

About the Academy of Art University, San Francisco

Established by artists for artists in 1929, the Academy of Art University in San Francisco is the largest accredited private art college in the United States. The Academy offers AA, BFA and MFA degrees in the areas of art and design, as well as certificates, portfolio development, and personal enrichment classes both online and on campus.

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Source: Academy of Art University

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