Friends of The Big Fresno Fair

Preserving History and Building for the Future

For more than a decade, the *Friends of The Big Fresno Fair* – the Fair's non-profit 501(c)(3) Foundation – has been dedicated to preserving and enhancing the Fairgrounds for future generations. Through community support and fundraising, the Foundation has raised millions of dollars to fund significant capital improvements, expand educational programs, and celebrate Fresno County's rich history.

Among its most notable projects is the **Fresno County Historical Museum**, a $3.2 million, 14,000-square-foot, two-story facility that opened in 2015. Today, it remains the largest capital improvement at the Fairgrounds in over a decade and continues to draw thousands of visitors eager to explore the county's history—from agriculture and public safety to sports and military heritage.

The Friends of The Big Fresno Fair has also helped transform the Fairgrounds with projects such as the award-winning **Table Mountain Rancheria Park** featuring nine free family attractions, the **Tractor Tree** agricultural display, and major improvements to the Fair's live racing facility, including the remodeled paddock, VIP Suite, and Luxury Deck. Other enhancements include the Pavilion Area, new entrance gates, and the preservation of iconic pieces of Fresno history such as the **Fresno Courthouse Cupola**, the restored **1947 Mars Drive-In sign**, and other beloved neon signs like Lesterburger, Hacienda Motel, and Eddie's Speed Shop.

Beyond capital projects, the Foundation heavily supports the Fair's **educational programs**. These include the **Fair Education Program**, which brings thousands of Fresno County K–8th grade students to the Fair each year, and the **4.0 & Above Program**, which recognizes high-achieving 8th–12th grade students with prizes, scholarships, and even a chance to win a new car. The Friends also sponsor awards for the annual **Big Band Review**, supporting middle and high school marching bands from across California.

With a dedicated 10-member Board and more than 60 active members, the Friends of The Big Fresno Fair continues to find innovative ways to preserve the Fair's legacy while shaping its future. Exciting new projects are on the horizon, and community support remains essential in ensuring The Big Fresno Fair continues to thrive for generations to come.

For more information on Friends of The Big Fresno Fair and how to get involved, visit www.FresnoFair.com/fof.