

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEDIA ADVISORY & PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

CREATING THE BEAUTIFUL GAME: MLS PROSPECTS VISIT THE NELSON-ATKINS MUSEUM OF ART ON WEDNESDAY, JAN. 11, TO PAINT ONE-OF-A-KIND WORK OF ART THROUGH THEIR MOVEMENT AND BALL SKILLS

Under direction of museum educators, six top projected MLS draftees in uniform will dip their cleats and soccer balls into paint to create unique piece of art on giant canvas

KANSAS CITY (*Monday, Jan. 9, 2012*) – When beautifully played, soccer has been called art. On Wednesday, January 11 (2 p.m. CT), six top Major League Soccer (MLS) prospects will visit Kansas City's famed Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, where they will dip their cleats and soccer balls into paint, and use their movements, kicking, passing and dribbling to originate a one-of-a-kind work of art on a giant canvas.

The larger-than-life painting, created under the guidance of the museum education staff, will then be displayed for a limited time at the museum, and later moved to Sporting Kansas City's stadium, LIVESTRONG Sporting Park. The piece will be known as "Creating the Beautiful Game."

The six prospects, Tony Cascio, Nick DeLeon, Sam Garza, Chandler Hoffman, Luis Silva and Casey Townsend, are scheduled to be in Kansas City to participate in the 2012 MLS SuperDraft presented by adidas, which will take place on Thursday, January 12 (11 a.m. local time) at the Kansas City Convention Center, and will be televised live on espn2 across the United States, as well as TSN2 and RDS2 in Canada.

WHAT: Six MLS prospects visit Kansas City's Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art to create a one-of-a-kind work of art on giant canvas using cleats and soccer balls dipped in paint.

WHO: Top MLS Prospects:

- Tony Cascio - midfielder, University of Connecticut; NSCAA First Team All-American
- Nick DeLeon – midfielder, University of Louisville; first team All-BIG EAST selection
- Sam Garza – forward, UC Santa Barbara; Big West Conference Co-Offensive Player of the Year
- Chandler Hoffman – forward, UCLA; MAC Hermann Trophy semifinalist
- Luis Silva - forward, UC Santa Barbara; 2011 NSCAA First Team All-American,
- Casey Townsend – forward, University of Maryland; MAC Hermann Trophy semifinalist

Dan Courtemanche, MLS Executive Vice President

Sarah Rowland, Chair, Nelson-Atkins Board of Trustees

Julián Zugazagoitia, The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art Director & CEO

Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art educators:

- Tara Tonsor
- Kim Higgins

WHEN: Wednesday, Jan. 11, 2 p.m. CT

WHERE: The Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, Kirkwood Hall
4525 Oak St.
Kansas City, MO 64111

VIDEO NEWS RELEASE: MLS will offer a video news release in the evening with video and sound bytes of the event.

SATELLITE COORDINATES:

7:00-7:15 PM ET

8:30-8:45 PM ET (re-feed)

Galaxy 25, Transponder 23 Slot A

(Ku Digital)

Downlink Frequency: 12106 Vertical

FEC: 3/4

Symbol: 6.1113

Data Rate: 8.448

Trouble number during first feed: (816) 398-4218

Trouble number during re-feed: (201) 807-0572

PHOTO/VIDEO OPPORTUNITIES:

- Uniformed MLS prospects dip their cleats and soccer balls into paint
- Players kick, dribble, juggle and pass balls on giant canvas to create unique painting
- Players sign canvas when work is done
- Museum artists “coaching” players through the experimental art process
- Remarks by MLS and museum executives
- One-on-one interviews with participants after event

NOTES TO MEDIA:

- Please arrive no later than 1:45 p.m. CT
- Media should park in the paved circle drive at north museum entrance, off 45th Street and enter through north doors of the original Nelson-Atkins building, off 45th Street.

www.MLSsoccer.com