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Photos: El Cortez Hotel & Casino and The Las Vegas Chapter of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Launch the First Traveling Hearts of Las Vegas Collection

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by admin

El Cortez Hotel & Casino and The Las Vegas Chapter of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Launch the First Traveling Hearts of Las Vegas Collection

On Thursday afternoon, El Cortez Hotel & Casino Executive Vice President Alexandra Epstein and representatives from St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Dorit Schwartz and Lainie Strouse, unveiled the first traveling *Hearts of Las Vegas*collection at El Cortez's Jackie Gaughan Plaza.

The 10 artistic human-heart sculptures have been crafted by local artists and will remain on display in the Jackie Gaughan Plaza for the next two months. The exhibit will not only act as a breathtaking art installation, but it will also help bring awareness to the work of St. Jude and their continued support for the treatment of childhood cancer and other life-threatening childhood diseases.

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After thanking the representatives of St. Jude for bestowing this honor upon El Cortez, Epstein introduced Schwartz and Strouse, who each offered an encouraging message of hope and gracious support while sharing St. Jude's mission. Having the opportunity to use an innovative platform such as the *Hearts of Las Vegas* has allowed St. Jude to spread their message the local community.

To conclude the unveiling ceremony, Schwartz and Strouse gifted Epstein and El Cortez with a heart sculpture to remain permanently on the Jackie Gaughan Plaza.

Prior to the formation of the traveling display, the *Hearts of Las Vegas* were featured individually throughout the streets of Las Vegas. In May 2012, a selection of hearts were auctioned to local individuals at the third annual "Las Vegas Honors St. Jude: An Affair of the Art" event. One hundred percent of the proceeds from the collection benefited the children of St. Jude.

El Cortez Hotel and Casino Executive Vice President Alexandra Epstein addresses the crowd at the unveiling of the first traveling Hearts of Las Vegas exhibit at El Cortez's Jackie Gaughan Plaza

Local artist pose with St Jude and El Cortez representatives following the unveiling of the first traveling Hearts of Las Vegas collection at El Cortez's Jackie Gaughan Plaza.

El Cortez's Alexandra Epstein stands with local artist Joseph Watson and St. Jude representatives Lainie Strouse and Dorit Schwartz in front of Watson's "The Gift II" sculpture at El Cortez's Jackie Gaughan Plaza. The heart sculpture was

donated to El Cortez by the local St. Jude chapter.

The Las Vegas Chapter of St. Jude Children's Research Hospital Co-Chair's Tanya Amid and Dorit Schwartz pose in front of local artist KD Matheson's "Angel" sculpture at El Cortez Hotel and Casino's Jackie Gaughan Plaza.

Credit: J. Rick Martin

Tags: El Cortez Hotel & Casino, Hearts of Las Vegas, Jackie Gaughan Plaza, Las Vegas, St. Jude, vegas24seven

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