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**Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library Kicks Off
2017 Year of Vonnegut
with Sneak Peak of New Building on January 6**

Indianapolis, IN – Mayor Joe Hogsett with the City of Indianapolis, in partnership with The Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library (KVML) and Visit Indy, has proclaimed 2017 “The Year of Vonnegut.” A year-long calendar of community-led programming is planned around the theme, “A Little More Common Decency,” a message Hoosier native and author Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., highlighted in his many novels and as an activist. The celebration marks a decade since the first “Year of Vonnegut,” proclaimed by former Mayor Bart Peterson, and it commemorates the tenth anniversary of Vonnegut’s death in April 2007.

The first event of the year is a Kick Off Party at the library’s new location, 646 Massachusetts Avenue, during the IDADA First Friday event January 6 from 6 to 9 pm. KVML is opening its doors to guests who are curious to see the current building and learn how the facility will transform once construction begins on January 9. Staff and volunteers will offer tours throughout the evening, while students from nearby Herron High School will perform with a string quartet and showcase portraits of “Leaders of Common Decency,” including Kurt Vonnegut, Jr., Madam C.J. Walker, Martin Luther King, Jr., Helen Keller, His Holiness The Dalai Lama and St. Teresa of Calcutta.

Also in January, the Arts Council of Indianapolis is celebrating the Year of Vonnegut by featuring works of art by Vonnegut in the foyer of Gallery 924 at 924 Pennsylvania Avenue.

While best known as an author, Vonnegut did enjoy drawing and painting. The three-piece exhibit, on display from January 6 through April 10, 2017, includes Cheops, Self Portrait #1 and Vonnegut Silkscreens, a piece originally displayed at the New York City Barnes & Noble on 54th Street in 1996.

"Mayor Hogsett's brilliant idea for a second "Year of Vonnegut" city-wide celebration launched a flurry of planning that led to the creation of this important year of outstanding arts and humanities programming," said Julia Whitehead, founder and CEO of the Kurt Vonnegut Museum and Library. "We are thrilled to partner with the Mayor's Office and Visit Indy, along with so many community partners from Maribeth Smith and Associates to Indianapolis Public Library system and others, including St. Margaret's Guild, which will feature Vonnegut's childhood home as its decorators' show house this year. Many years ago, Indianapolis ignored Kurt Vonnegut. But that's not the case anymore. It warms my heart to see Vonnegut's rich contribution to the planet being recognized in this festive way."

KVML first opened its doors in 2011, at its current location, 340 N. Senate, a space generously donated by Katz & Korin. The museum and library will remain open at that location until early April. The new location for KVML along vibrant Mass Ave. will provide more museum exhibition space as well as an educational center and community gathering space. Additionally, the space will host a new *Slaughterhouse-Five* exhibition and exhibitions related to literary censorship and themes on common decency. Construction on the new building will be completed by April 8th, the day of the Grand Opening for the public and the annual Night of Vonnegut gala.

To learn more about all of our Year of Vonnegut events, visit <http://www.vonnegutlibrary.org/year-of-vonnegut/>. For museum hours at the 340 N. Senate location, go to <http://www.vonnegutlibrary.org/>.

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The Kurt Vonnegut Memorial Library champions the legacy of Hoosier author Kurt Vonnegut and the principles of free expression, common decency, and peaceful coexistence he advocated. www.vonnegutlibrary.org.