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For immediate release

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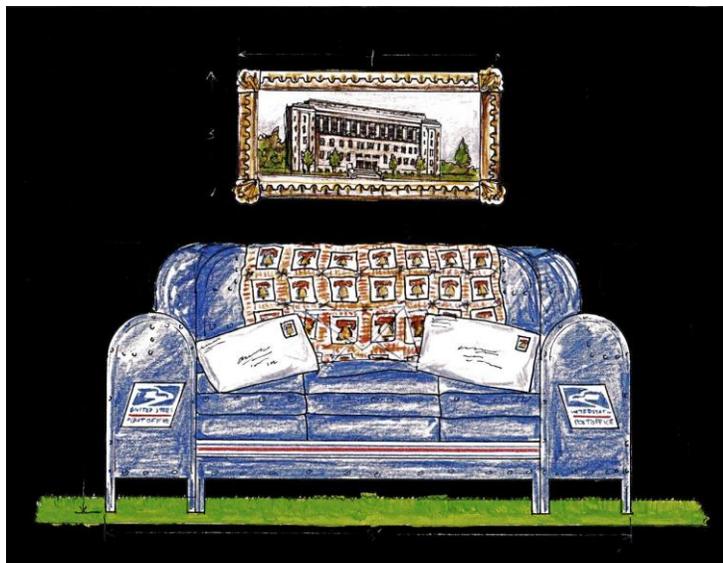


City Center Square, 12th and Main
In collaboration with Urban Culture Project presents

POST OFFICE SOFA - A WINDOW INSTALLATION BY ADOLFO MARTINEZ
Debuting Friday, October 16 in conjunction with UCP's Third Friday Art Downtown

City Center Square and Urban Culture Project are pleased to announce the upcoming debut of “Post Office Sofa,” a window installation by Kansas City-based artist and 2008 Charlotte Street Foundation Visual Artist Award Fellow Adolfo Martinez. To remain on view for approximately one year, the installation was commissioned by City Center Square for its north-facing window on 12th Street, just west of Main, through an open call to artists facilitated by Urban Culture Project. The installation relates to the United States Post Office located within City Center Square, specifically taking the idea of the postage stamp as inspiration.

Martinez’s installation will build on his “Sofa Sized Paintings” series, which takes inspiration from the “starving artist sales” promoted on television, which advertise bargain artworks priced according to size: “Sofa sized paintings for only \$19.99,” for example. The installation will include a new 8-foot cutout painting, “Post Office Sofa,” incorporating USPS mailboxes as armrests, a stamp-patterned afghan



draped over the back of the couch, throw pillows in the likeness of stuffed envelopes, and a framed picture behind it of the former post office across from Union Station, where Martinez’s father worked as a sorter in the 60s and 70s. The cutout painting will sit atop a fake green grass floor.

This installation reflects Martinez’s interests in pop culture and in personal and cultural histories, rituals, and traditions, as well as in upending expectations and dismantling clichés. Martinez is indeed best known for his “sofa-size” paintings, two of which reside in the collection of the Nerman Museum

of Contemporary Art. “I love them as a series,” said Nerman Museum Director Bruce Hartman. “He’s endowed each with a very distinctive personality. There’s great wit to them, and they’re beautifully realized.”

Adolfo Martinez earned his BFA from Pan American University in Edinburg, Texas, and also studied at the Kansas City Art Institute. He has exhibited regularly in Kansas City at the Mattie Rhodes Art Center and the Late Show, as well as at UCP’s la Esquina, the Writer’s Place, H&R Block Artspace at Kansas City Art Institute, Blue Gallery, and the Bohemian Gallery.

Charlotte Street Foundation is an organization dedicated to making Kansas City a place where artists and art thrive. Its Urban Culture Project initiative creates new opportunities for artists of all disciplines and contributes to urban revitalization by transforming spaces in downtown Kansas City into new venues for multi-disciplinary contemporary arts programming. For more information, visit www.charlottestreet.org.