FROM: TIMES SQUARE ALLIANCE <u>www.TimesSquareNYC.org</u>

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For Immediate Release

LOVE WILL RADIATE FROM TIMES SQUARE ON VALENTINE'S DAY Two Weddings, Two Surprise Proposals, and a Vow Renewal on the Red Steps

All In Front The Newly Announced Winner of the Third Annual Ice Sculpture Show with Governors Island: Artist Lovie Pignata's 'Smitten'

(Times Square, N.Y. – February 12, 2024) On Valentine's Day, New Yorkers and visitors looking for romance in New York City will find it at the Crossroads of the World with Love in Times Square. Each year, lovers surprise their partners with marriage proposals under Times Square's iconic American Eagle screen; couples tie the knot on Duffy Square; and New Yorkers and visitors renew their vows on the Red Steps. These real life love stories will unfold in front of the winning ice sculpture from the third annual Winter Ice Sculpture Show on Governors Island this past February 3rd presented by Times Square Arts and Governors Island Arts. The winning artwork was artist Lovie Pignata's *Smitten* sculpture.

Love in Times Square will follow the below schedule on Valentine's Day:

10:50 am – Brief remarks to unveil the Lovie Pignata's Smitten ice sculpture

11:00 am - Wedding #1

11:30 am – Surprise Proposal #1 on the American Eagle billboard

12:00 pm – Wedding #2

12:30 pm – Surprise Proposal #2 on the American Eagle billboard

1:00 pm – Wedding #3

6:00 pm – Vow Renewal on the Red Steps (Registration: TSQ.org/Vows)

Details about the wedding couples at 11:00 am and 12:00 pm will be available onsite at the event and they will be available for interviews after their big moment. Please reach out to TJ Witham at tiwitham@tsq.org for any specific requests.

More details about the proposals:

- At 11:30 am and 12:30 pm, a diverse set of lucky lovers, will be surprised with a Valentine's Day gift that they and everyone else in Times Square won't see coming and won't soon forget: a surprise marriage proposal will appear on Times Square's iconic American Eagle billboard.
- Beginning at 6:00 pm, a celebration of love and commitment will take place outside on the iconic Red Steps in Times Square. The ceremony is free and open to people of all ages, genders, religions, races, and backgrounds and will include a live performance from a member of the cast of Broadway's *The Notebook*. Those interested in attending can register here: <u>TSq.org/Vows</u>.

All of the festivities will overlook the winning ice sculpture from the third annual Winter Ice Sculpture Show that took place on February 3rd on Governors Island by artist Lovie Pignata for *Smitten*. The winning sculpture depicts two cozy mittens with knit details touching to form a heart, referencing the beginning stages of love in the cold winter season. The sculpture will be realized as a large-scale installation carved by Okamoto Studio and will be on display for the Love in Times Square events and beyond until it melts.

Photos from the February 3rd event: Photos (credit: by Julienne Schaer).

The jury panel that selected the winning sculpture included creative agent at-large and cast member of Bravo's The Real Housewives of New York City **Jenna Lyons**, writer and editor **Miya Lee**, New York City Council Member **Chi Ossé**, and **Hollis Kam**, Senior Vice President of People and Culture at Times Square Alliance and decade-long ordained wedding officiant for Love in Times Square.

Footage and images of the Valentine's Day Love in Times Square events will be available upon request after the event.

Photos and video from last year can be found here: Photos (credit: by Liz Ligon for Times Square Alliance and video (credit: by Phatt Features for the Times Square Alliance).

While in Times Square for Valentine's Day, we encourage everyone to rediscover their favorite local spots and explore hidden gems offering special menus, gifts, and offers, including Empire Steak House, Swing 46, The Terrace, Pink Taco, Levi's, The Muse New York, AKA Times Square and more. More information can be found at TSQ.org/FebDeals.

Social media | #LoveTimesSquare Twitter: @TimesSquareNYC

Instagram: @TimesSquareNYC and @TsqArts

Facebook: @TimesSquareNYC Tik Tok: @TimesSquare.NYC

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ABOUT TIMES SQUARE ALLIANCE

The Times Square Alliance works to improve and promote Times Square - cultivating the creativity, energy and edge that have made the area an icon of entertainment, culture and urban life for over a century. Founded in 1992, the Alliance keeps the neighborhood clean and safe, promotes local businesses, manages area improvements and produces major annual events with partners including New Year's Eve, Solstice in Times Square and Taste of Times Square. As the custodians of Times Square, the Alliance works every day to improve the quality of life for the neighborhood residents and businesses while driving economic growth in New York City. TSQ.org

ABOUT TIMES SQUARE ARTS

Times Square Arts, the public art program of the Times Square Alliance, collaborates with contemporary artists and cultural institutions to experiment and engage with one of the world's most iconic urban places. Through the Square's electronic billboards, public plazas, vacant areas and popular venues, and the Alliance's own online landscape, Times Square Arts invites leading contemporary creators, such as Mel Chin, Tracey Emin, Jeffrey Gibson, Ryan McGinley, Yoko Ono, and Kehinde Wiley, to help the public see Times Square in new ways. Times Square has always been a place of risk, innovation and creativity, and the Arts Program ensures these qualities remain central to the district's unique identity. TSQ.org/Arts

ABOUT GOVERNORS ISLAND ARTS

Governors Island Arts, the public arts and cultural program presented by the Trust for Governors Island, creates transformative encounters with art for all New Yorkers, inviting artists and researchers to engage with the issues of our time in the context of the Island's layered histories, environments, and architecture. Governors Island Arts achieves this mission through temporary and long-term public art commissions, an annual Organization in Residence program in the Island's historic houses, and free public programs and events in partnership with a wide range of cross-disciplinary NYC cultural organizations. For more information, visit www.govisland.org/giarts