



The historic, refurbished Army facility at the Presidio in San Francisco that is home to the new Walt Disney Family Museum befits Walt Disney's deep respect for those who serve in the military, while the technologically advanced exhibitions inside reflect his own way-ahead-of-his-time innovations.



A wall of windows in the Walt Disney Family Museum offers spectacular views of Northern California's Bay Area, including the Golden Gate Bridge.

A WALK THROUGH THE WALT DISNEY FAMILY MUSEUM

by Barbara Layman

Of all the celebrated stories Walt Disney brought to life, none is more inspiring and remarkable than that of Walt himself. And no one presents his extraordinary saga better than the magnificent Walt Disney Family Museum.

Opening October 1, 2009, in San Francisco's prestigious Presidio, the Museum was established in part by the Walt Disney Family Foundation, led by two people who knew Walt intimately—his daughter, Diane Disney Miller, and grandson, Walter Miller—and is dedicated to the great showman, pioneer and innovator, and most importantly, to the man—husband, father, friend and colleague.

"My father's name is probably one of the most well-known names around the world, but as the 'brand' or trademark has spread, for many, the man has become lost," states Diane. "We are committed to telling the story of Walt Disney's life, in his own words, and in the words of others who knew him well and worked with him. My father was very open and approachable, and in many conversations and interviews that were captured in audio, you will be able to hear that in the galleries as you learn the story of his life."

Set within a historic, renovated Army barracks, the exultingly designed museum features ten spectacular galleries that meticulously and beautifully chronicle Walt's life from his birth in 1901 until his passing in 1966. Comprehensive exhibits showcase Walt's key relationships, triumphs and setbacks, important advancements in animation and technology, and his dedication to conservation.

Especially notable among the 1,600 works in the Museum's extensive collection are the earliest known drawings of Mickey Mouse, home movies never



The Museum is home to many historical photographs, including this photo of Walt (holding an early Mickey Mouse doll) and his lovely wife, Lillian, on the deck of the *Rex*, 1935.



Museum visitors can explore rare artworks throughout the museum, including this fanciful concept painting developed for one of Walt's favorite stories, *Peter Pan*.

before shown to the public, the small-scale Lilly Belle locomotive Walt rode in his backyard, and a special-effects notebook. Visitors can also marvel via touch-screen at some of the behind-the-scenes magic of "The Sorcerer's Apprentice" from *Fantasia*. Other significant highlights are the special Academy® Award Walt won for *Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs*, featuring one full-size and seven miniature Oscar® statuettes, as well as two multiplane cameras—the original, 12-foot-tall model and a smaller version that visitors can operate themselves.

Over two hundred state-of-the-art monitors located throughout the impressive facility and a 360-degree overhead video ribbon streaming a decade of Disney filmmaking deepen the experience, bringing visitors closer than ever to the man so

often affectionately referred to as Uncle Walt.

What's more, the Bay Area—a creative and technological hub—is also known for the sort of natural settings Walt Disney deeply loved and respected. In fact, a special gallery is dedicated to *Seal Island*—Walt's first True-Life Adventure film and his first nature documentary to win an Academy Award®—with floor-to-ceiling windows facing a breathtaking vista of the Golden Gate Bridge.

"This will be a place of pilgrimage for the Disney fan," said Museum director Richard Benefield. Events commemorating the grand opening of the Museum include a public celebration on October 1, 2009. And visitors who choose to become Founding Members can get a sneak preview of the museum before it's unveiled

It all started with a Mouse. Before *Steamboat Willie*, *The Mickey Mouse Club* and Mickey's Toontown, there were these pencil sketches (concept art detail), the earliest known drawings of Mickey Mouse, just one example of the rare art to be enjoyed at the Walt Disney Family Museum.



to the public.

Make plans to experience the quintessential treasure trove of the unforgettable innovator's works, ambitions and personal narrative; for walking through the Walt Disney Family Museum is like being part of an adventure as illustrious and compelling as every Walt Disney presentation.

Though his legacy centers largely around the entire, expansive kingdom he created, this special place assures that generations present and future can know that it all started with a man who never lost his childlike sense of wonder. A man who inspired others with his humanity as much as his creativity. A man who captivated the world by harnessing the power of his dreams. A man named Walt Disney.



THE WALT DISNEY CLASSICS COLLECTION AND MUCH MORE

Every corner of the Walt Disney Family Museum, including the learning center, theater, café and a very distinctive museum store, echoes Walt's tireless pursuit of providing guests with wonderfully unique experiences. Clay Chaffin of the Merchandising, Product Development and Retail Division for the Walt Disney Family Museum calls the store, "a veritable museum unto itself." In addition to select sculptures from the Walt Disney Classics Collection and other licensed pieces, look for a variety of museum content recreated into dazzling memorabilia along with exclusive commemorative displays—all celebrating Walt Disney's history and masterworks.