

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mayor Adler to Speak at Opening of *Street Stories* Humanizing the Homeless Community in Austin

Austin, (TX) – A series of paintings of individuals in Austin who are currently experiencing homelessness, will be on display November 19-25 in the Atrium at City Hall. This series, *Street Stories*, is by award-winning artist Sonja Kever, and shows the humanity of a group of people who are often overlooked by the public who pass them on the street each day. Capturing a moment in time for each subject, the exhibit brings to light the diversity of this vulnerable population in Austin. This exhibit has been shown at other venues and this final showing at City Hall will allow the public who are downtown during the day, to spend some time experiencing the paintings and reflecting on their own interactions with this community.

What: *Street Stories*, an exhibit of Austinites currently experiencing homelessness, painted by award-winning artist Sonja Kever

MEDIA OPPORTUNITY: *Exhibit opening Thursday, November 19 between 12:00 and 12:30pm with Mayor Steve Adler, Front Steps Executive Director Mitchell Gibbs and artist Sonja Kever.*

When: Exhibit runs Thursday, November 19 – Wednesday, November 25 (closed Saturday and Sunday)
9:00am – 4:00pm.

Where: Atrium, City Hall, 301 West 2nd Street, Austin, TX 78701

Who: Front Steps and the Mayor's Office

Why: To coincide with National Hunger and Homelessness Awareness Week and to bring attention to the diversity and the individuality of those experiencing homelessness in our community.

Front Steps, the non-profit that oversees the ARCH (Austin Resource Center for the Homeless) has spent over a year working with the artist to develop her series of 32 portraits, and has also arranged with several other non-profits who serve the homeless population, to exhibit *Street Stories*. Ms. Kever has donated all proceeds from the sale of the paintings to various non-profits in Austin who provide services to those experiencing homelessness.

Street Stories: For over a year now, award-winning Austin artist Sonja Kever has dedicated her artistic abilities to interviewing, photographing, and painting portraits of the homeless and disenfranchised community members she has met. The goal of her 32 portraits is to help people see hope, humanity and beauty in Austin's homeless population and be moved to help.