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### **Downtown Mesa's Street Furniture Wants to Talk to You**

Hello Lamp Post project bringing objects to life March 17-April 15, 2018

**March 7, 2018 (Mesa, AZ)** – Hello Lamp Post, a playful work of interactive digital art that invites people to strike up conversations with familiar street fixtures, will be installed in downtown Mesa and on Mesa Arts Center's campus March 17-April 16, 2018, marking the second installation of this work in the United States. The public art project by PAN Studios in London will encourage people to pause in their tracks and interact via text message with everyday street objects like lamp posts, benches, buildings and drains. The objects will 'wake up,' prompting a set of carefully crafted questions about what people are doing and how they feel about where they live, work and play.

In the Mesa project, 32 objects including Mesa Arts Center itself will come to life via anonymous text messages. All that is needed to engage the objects is a basic mobile phone. As conversations grow, the objects will develop personalities and engage visitors around what they've heard from others. Visitors will be invited to tell the designated Hello Lamp Post objects their stories, give opinions and share observations.

Cindy Ornstein, Executive Director of Mesa Arts Center and Director of Arts & Culture for City of Mesa said of the project, "We love the way Hello Lamp Post encourages visitors to Mesa Arts Center and downtown Mesa to notice and look differently at objects in the environment. We know the installation will surprise and delight, but also hope it helps expose public dreams, and understanding about values, public spaces and community."

An object map will be available at Mesa Arts Center's box office and throughout downtown Mesa. Visitors are encouraged to explore and converse with as many of the objects as they like. The project map will also be available to view on the project website when it is launched on March 17, at <https://mesa.hlp.city>.

Mesa Arts Center is located at One East Main Street in downtown Mesa, AZ. More information can be found at [MesaArtsCenter.com](http://MesaArtsCenter.com).

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#### **About Mesa Arts Center**

The Mesa Arts Center mission is to inspire people through engaging arts experiences that are diverse, accessible, and relevant. Owned and operated by the City of Mesa, Arizona's largest arts center is recognized as an international award-winning venue. The unique and

architecturally stunning facility is home to four theaters, five art galleries, and 14 art studios and an artist cooperative gallery. For more information, visit [mesaartscenter.com](http://mesaartscenter.com).

### **About PAN Studios**

PAN Studios creates unique, affecting experiences at the intersection of technology, games and art. We're now dedicated to bringing Hello Lamp Post to cities around the world. Hello Lamp Post is the winner of Watershed's 2013 Playable City Award.

View a short video about Hello Lamp Post, [here](#).