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**VAIL JAZZ FOUNDATION PRESENTS
'SALUTE TO LOUIS ARMSTRONG' EXHIBIT AT VAIL LIBRARY**

Exhibit is part of Library's 25th Anniversary

September 26, 2008 – Vail, Colorado – The Vail Jazz Foundation has joined with other arts organizations to celebrate the 'Artful Nature of the Word' with an exhibit honoring jazz legend Louis Armstrong. The exhibit is on display at the Vail Library and is available for public viewing during library operating hours: Monday - Thursday 10am - 8pm, and Friday-Sunday 11am - 6pm.

Vail Jazz Foundation volunteer and trumpet player Gary Thornton put the exhibit together as a way to illustrate the development of jazz music, using one of its most influential musicians as its theme.

Louis Armstrong hailed from New Orleans, the birthplace of jazz, and his love of music and tremendous mastery of his instruments eventually lifted him out of an impoverished early life. While many are familiar with his gravelly voice and his great toothy smile, few are aware of the profound impact he had on jazz in the early 20th century. "Louis Armstrong simply loved jazz; he explored instruments and styles and created new ways of making music. He was an innovator; his trumpet playing, coronet playing, and his vocal interpretations became a cornerstone for what became today's jazz," said Thornton. "There's not another individual who had a more profound effect on the development of America's own art form; jazz music," Thornton continued.

The exhibit includes a variety of media available through the Vail Public Library, including audio, video, and books for young and old alike. The Vail Jazz Foundation also includes materials on its annual Vail Jazz Festival performances and educational programs,

including Jazz Goes to School, which in the past ten years has educated over 10,000 Eagle County 4th and 5th graders about jazz in the context of social studies.

“It’s a popular exhibit, and most of our visitors at least stop at the table to check out this wonderful collection of resources on Louis Armstrong,” said Lori Ann Barnes of the Vail Library. The exhibit is scheduled to continue daily through October 25; call the Vail Public Library at 970.479.2194 for more information

About the Vail Jazz Foundation

The Vail Jazz Foundation’s mission is to perpetuate jazz music through live performances that showcase the artistry and talent of great jazz musicians, and through jazz education, with a focus on young musicians and young audiences. By taking jazz into the schools, the VJF hopes to create an awareness at a younger level, thus creating future audiences and potentially, future jazz musicians.

For more information, contact:

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