



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 11, 2020

MEDIA CONTACT

Debbie Mesloh (415)867-2243
debmesloh@gmail.com

Karen Breslau (650)906-3132
karen@featurewellstories.com

Christine Blasey Ford, Chanel Miller, and March for Our Lives Receive Courage Awards
*Survivors, activists honored at event for Courage Museum, a design lab for violence prevention
in San Francisco's Presidio National Park to Open in 2021*

San Francisco, CA -- In a rare public appearance, Dr. Christine Ford spoke about the incalculable value of civic engagement and activism by young people as she accepted a 2020 Courage Award presented by Futures With Violence, a national health and social justice organization preventing gender-based violence and abuse. Dr. Ford testified during the 2018 confirmation hearings of Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh that she was sexually assaulted by Kavanaugh when the two were high school students, describing her decision to come forward, despite threats and harassment, as her "civic duty."

Dr. Ford, a professor of psychology and biostatistician at Palo Alto University and Stanford School of Medicine, was honored along with Chanel Miller, author of "Know My Name," her best-selling memoir about her journey as a sexual assault survivor, and March for Our Lives activist Tyah Amoy-Roberts. Dr. Ford, Chanel Miller and Tyah Amoy-Roberts will collaborate on the stories, installations, and youth leadership and education programs in association with the Courage Museum.

A project of Futures Without Violence, the Courage Museum is scheduled to open in 2021, on the Main Post of the Presidio National Park in San Francisco, and will serve as world's first interactive learning center designed to simulate and then build a world in which violence is not an inevitable part of the human experience. Renowned experience designer Jake Barton, whose recent projects include the 9/11 Memorial & Museum in New York City, and the Legacy Museum in Montgomery, Alabama, has been selected as creative lead for the Courage Museum.

"We are opening the Courage Museum in the Presidio National Park with the intention of using public land to provide a public service," said Esta Soler, founder and president of Futures

Without Violence. "We must end the public health crisis of violence, and the hate that fuels it. The Courage Museum is our design lab for the transformative human change required to do just that."

Dr. Ford opened her segment explaining why she chose the event at Futures with Violence to make a rare public appearance, "There are some organizations with values that align with mine. I learned about the work of Futures and the Courage Museum, I am very honored to be here," she said.

When asked what the Courage Museum means to her, Chanel Miller said:

"After you're assaulted, a lot of people like to throw advice at you, or critique you. It's an external bombardment and it can be extremely overwhelming. This [The Courage Museum] is asking something different – which is simply to be there, alongside you. That's what we ask for.

The amazing thing about this museum is that – I feel like when a victim goes to seek help it's up to them to pull themselves out of bed to go to the hospital, or summon the courage to call a hotline. It is this very isolating experience. This is the first time, I've seen a space where a whole family, a community, can go, have a collective discussion of 'which role do we all play in this?' rather than 'what do I have to do next? And how do I tell them what's happening?'

That is extremely new to me and it means so much to me," she said.

For more than 30 years Futures Without Violence has developed groundbreaking programs, policies, and campaigns to end gender-based violence and abuse around the world. The Courage Museum will incorporate science, history, culture and immersive technologies showing how and why violence is learned, and how it can be unlearned.

[A clip](#) of Dr. Ford at the event can be found here.



Dr. Ford in conversation with Cindi Leive, former editor of Glamour magazine

NOTE: Dr. Ford's appearance at Night of Courage was not announced prior to the event.

###

ABOUT FUTURES WITHOUT VIOLENCE:

Futures Without Violence is a health and social justice nonprofit organization, providing groundbreaking programs, policies, and campaigns to end gender-based violence and abuse around the world. Striving to reach new audiences and transform social norms, FUTURES trains professionals such as doctors, nurses, judges, and athletic coaches on improving responses to violence and abuse. FUTURES also works with advocates, policy makers, and others to build sustainable community leadership and educate people everywhere about the importance of respect and healthy relationships.

For more information, please visit <https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/>.

ABOUT THE COURAGE MUSEUM:

The Courage Museum is a design lab for human change and a launchpad for the next generation of activists, creating a world in which violence is not viewed as an inevitable part of the human experience. Scheduled to open in 2021 in San Francisco's Presidio National Park site, the Courage Museum will incorporate science, history, culture and immersive technologies showing how and why violence is learned, and how it can be unlearned. In partnership with designer Jake Barton, founder and principal of award-winning experience design firm Local Projects, the Courage Museum's interactive installations are designed to inspire individuals to become active participants in preventing violence and hate.

To learn more about the Courage Museum, please visit <http://couragemuseum.org/>.