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**BERKELEY'S DHARMA COLLEGE ANNOUNCES
FIRST-EVER BLOCK-LONG OPEN HOUSE
Saturday, September 15, 2012**

Free Public Tours of Dharma College, Mangalam Research Center for Buddhist Languages, Tibetan Aid Project and Dharma Publishing Bookstore in Downtown Berkeley

(Berkeley, CA) – The extraordinary transformation and renewal of a City block in downtown Berkeley will be celebrated as Berkeley's new Dharma College, along with the Mangalam Research Center for Buddhist Languages, Tibetan Aid Project, and Dharma Publishing Bookstore, open their doors for the first time for public tours on Saturday, September 15, 2012 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. The block-long open house, from 2222 Harold Way (at Kittredge) to 2018 Allston, features guided building tours, informational talks, a Tibetan Art exhibition, live music and dance performances, refreshments and an opportunity to meet the Dharma College faculty and other representatives of these beneficial non-profit organizations.

Berkeley's new Dharma College opens its doors to students this fall as an educational center dedicated to bringing together seekers and thinkers, scientists, humanists, and spiritual leaders from throughout the Bay Area and around the world to explore the nature of the human mind and its transformative potential. Its classes are open to the general public and are welcoming to adults of all backgrounds and beliefs. Inaugural six-week courses begin October 3 and run through November 10, 2012. Dharma College courses will encourage individuals to explore and develop their inner resources and to awaken a more positive way to experience the world.

Dharma College and its sister downtown organizations were founded by Tibetan Buddhist Lama Tarthang Tulku Rinpoche, a refugee who fled his homeland in 1959 and settled in Berkeley in 1969. A fully-trained Master Teacher in the Nyingma lineage of Tibetan Buddhism and author of over two-dozen books, he has devoted his lifelong efforts to preserving Tibetan Buddhist culture and bringing its profound teachings to the West. Since 1978, he has been on permanent retreat at Odiyan, a monastery in Sonoma County.

OPEN HOUSE AND TOURS – SEPTEMBER 15

Dharma College, recognized as an official City of Berkeley landmark in 1994, was designed by pre-eminent Bay Area architect Walter Ratcliff. The 33,000 square foot, three-level building houses classrooms, study spaces and dining facilities.

Mangalam Research Center for Buddhist Languages was founded in 2009 and conducts ongoing scholarly research into the Buddhist written tradition. It offers training in canonical languages, hosts scholarly

symposia and public events, and provides essential online resources for translators and readers. Its long-term mission is to make English and other Western languages vehicles for the transmission of Buddhism.

Dharma Publishing Bookstore offers a wide variety of books, sacred art, and practice supplies including meditation cushions, malas and singing bowls. Sales support the printing of Buddhist texts rescued from Tibet which are distributed free of charge at the annual World Peace Ceremony in Bodh Gaya, India. Since its founding in 1971, Dharma Publishing has produced over 100 titles in English, sold rights for translations into 18 languages, and printed more than 1,000 different reproductions of traditional thankas.

Tibetan Aid Project supports the efforts of Tibetans to preserve and continue their religious and cultural heritage. It supports literacy and sponsors traditional ceremonies, and shipments of books to Tibetan monasteries and lay practitioners in Asia. Since 1980, it has shipped over three million sacred texts to these communities free of charge.

CIVIC RIBBON CUTTING – SEPTEMBER 14

Dharma College and the restoration of Harold Way will be celebrated on Friday, September 14th at 1 p.m. when Co-Directors of Dharma College, Robin and Curt Caton, along with City of Berkeley officials, local business leaders and others officially welcome Dharma College to the Berkeley Community.

For further information please contact Dharma College at 510-809-2010 or visit the website at www.dharma-college.com

ATTENTION CALENDAR EDITORS

**Dharma College Hosts First Ever Block-Long Open House
Free Public Tours – Dharma College, Mangalam Research Center for Buddhist Languages,
Tibetan Aid Project, Dharma Publishing Bookstore in Downtown Berkeley**

DATE: **Saturday, September 15 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.**
ADDRESS: 2222 Harold Way to 2018 Allston, Berkeley, CA
ADMISSION: Free

First ever Open House of Dharma College and its sister organizations features guided building tours, informational talks, Tibetan Art exhibition, music, dance, refreshments and an opportunity to meet the Dharma College faculty and representatives of related organizations.

Ribbon Cutting and Civic Celebration
DATE: **Friday, September 14 at 1 p.m.**
ADDRESS: 2222 Harold Way, Berkeley, CA
ADMISSION: Free

The public is invited to attend the ribbon-cutting that officially opens and welcomes Dharma College to the City of Berkeley.

Classes Begin October 3, 2012. For a complete description of class offerings contact Dharma College

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