



Sac Metro Arts E-newsletter Issue No. 1

POINTS OF INTEREST

By Rhyena Halpern, Executive Director

Welcome to the first issue of our online e-newsletter! In the coming months, the SMAC E-Newsletter will feature important program updates, timely arts news and new opportunities within our community. We hope you enjoy it!

This month we are also launching our new website (www.SacMetroArts.org)! Following shortly thereafter will be our long awaited online public art collection!

In addition to these exciting technology initiatives, we are beginning work on the largest public art project in SMAC history as the airport's modernization program starts up! You can find out more info on our website (www.SacMetroArts.org). We are also launching our second round of training for teaching artists (ARI) and conducting our business of grantmaking online with our dynamic ArtScapes grantees.

That's not all! I am pleased to announce that we have just completed our new Cultural Business Plan for the next five years! When you have a chance, please log onto www.SacMetroArts.org to review the document. The development of the plan employed a highly inclusive and transparent process, and included interviews with artists, arts organizations, business owners, funders, and citizens throughout our region. We now have a roadmap with a strong direction and focus for the coming years.

On a personal note, I want to warmly thank you for all you do to make Sacramento a rich and original creative environment. It is an honor to work on behalf of you.

Great art does indeed make a great community.

Warmly,

Rhyena Halpern



SMAC recently celebrated its 30th Anniversary at New City Hall with Mayor Heather Fargo and then-Chair of the County Board of Supervisors, Don Nottoli, presiding. Other guests included: elected officials, Commissioners, artists, and community supporters.

CHAIR'S VIEW

By Linda Merksamer, Chair, Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission

SMAC has just completed a five-year Business Plan which I consider to be a major accomplishment of my tenure as Chair. This ambitious Business Plan sets forth long-range goals and hopes for the future of the arts in our growing community. Every effort was taken to engage a wide variety of stakeholders during both the assessment and development phases of the plan with methods that were meaningful, thought-provoking, and engaging. The public response was wonderful with over 2400 persons participating in our internet survey, 300 in attendance at Town Hall meetings and roundtables, 50 interviews with community leaders.

Please join SMAC in promoting our mission: Advancing community through arts and culture.

Warm Regards,
Linda Merksamer

SMAC HIGHLIGHTS

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES ADMINISTRATOR IS HIRED

California native Shelly Willis was hired as new Art in Public Places (APP) Administrator in January. Willis is responsible for the management and administration of the program and continue to build the programs strong foundation. Willis managed a similar program for the University of Minnesota for six years. She is the co-editor of *The Practice of Public Art*, to be published by Routledge, New York this spring. She has managed public art programs for the City of Fairfield and City of Sonoma and developed curriculum in public art for a graduate program at the University of Minnesota. She received undergraduate degrees in business administration and art history from California State University, Chico.



SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN ARTS COMMISSION ANNOUNCES NEW AIRPORT ART PROJECT—LARGEST IN PROGRAM HISTORY

The County Board of Supervisors recently approved an 8 million dollar allocation for public art for the new Terminal Modernization Program (TMP) at the Sacramento International Airport. The funding comes from a law which allows a percentage of construction dollars for County facilities to be set aside for art. The Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission's Art in Public Places (APP) will administer the public art project.

An innovative component of this \$8 million budget is the inclusion of \$2 million for an endowment to produce an ongoing public art exhibition program, to commission new works of public art, and for ongoing conservation and maintenance of public art at the International Airport in perpetuity.

Look for more detail on this exciting new APP project in future issues of the SMAC E-Newsletter. For more information or to review a complete press release on this historic public art program, please log onto the SMAC web site at www.SacMetroArt.org.

SMAC PROGRAM OVERVIEW

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES

Six Local Artists Receive Public Art Commissions--In February and March the Arts Commission approved six commissions by local artists at the North Natomas

Library, George Sim Community Center, and Valley Hi Library. The works included Ray Gonzales humorous tile piece depicting coyote's surfing and James Piskoti's interactive wall hanging celebrating reading for North Natomas Library; a mural by Pat Carrillo and a major, integrated glass work by Elizabeth Devereaux for the George Sim Community Center; and copper and acrylic panels by Charlotte Cooper and concrete tilt up walls embedded with text by Jenny Hale for Valley Hi Library.

GRANTS & CULTURAL PROGRAMS

GCP recently announced grant awards to 28 local arts groups for the 2008-09 cycle of ArtScapes. We are incredibly excited about all of our grantees' projects and hope that you will have a chance to attend!

Stabilization Grants Coming Soon--In response to the recent and impending economic downturns, we continue to support artists, arts groups, and organizations as we restructure the Stabilization Program. Look for the new Stabilization Grants soon on the SMAC web site.

Poet Laureate Update--Current Poet Laureate Julia Connor continues to make poetry accessible to Sacramento as she leads work on her latest project, Poets on Deck, a deck of playing cards featuring local poets and their poetry.

ARTS EDUCATION

Artists Residency Program begins in April--Artist Residency Institute (ARI), a paid professional development series for artists from Sacramento and Placer Counties begins its second round of training in April. The Artist Residency Institute offers a series of workshops and fieldwork (residency) experiences that pays visual, performing, literary and media artists to build their teaching skills. Both new and returning artists are invited to participate in this year's Institute. The program will take place throughout the month of April, 2008.

SMAC IN YOUR COMMUNITY

Woodlake Artists featured in an exhibition at City Hall: Visit the foyer of City Hall, Monday – Friday, 8:00 – 5:00 p.m. and see the work of artist living and working in Woodlake. Exhibit ends May 9, 2008.

SMUD Art Gallery:

A Light For...

Photographic Pigment Prints by Craig Schindler

Through April 18th, 2008

Hidden Spaces of Sacramento

Group show in all mediums by 14 regional professional artists

Dates: April 18 – May 30th, 2008

Reception: Friday, April 25th 4:00 – 7:00 pm

Sacramento International Airport, Terminal B
Sacramento, Urban and Rural
Photographic prints by Paula Wenzl Bellacera.
Jan 6th – April 11th, 2008

Underwater: The Beauty of Sacramento's Rivers
Oils on canvas by Lynnette Diem
April 11th – July 8th

Become an APP Docent Tour Guide or schedule a tour of public art at City Hall, the Convention Center, Cal/EPA building , or the Sacramento Airport. Please contact APP Education Coordinator, Dixie Laws at 566- 3992, or Dixie@dixielaws.com.

Resolution Program: If you would like to nominate an arts group, artist or arts advocate for their contribution to our community, we have a wonderful program to facilitate this recognition. Please go to the Arts Marketing section of our website.

GREAT ART MAKES A GREAT COMMUNITY!

Related Links:

http://www.sacmetroarts.org/_pdf/Business-Plan.pdf
http://www.sacmetroarts.org/_pdf/AirportArt_pressrelease.pdf
http://www.sacmetroarts.org/_pdf/APPAdmin_pressrelease.pdf
<http://www.smacgrants.org/index.jsp>
<http://smac.ercsystems.com/index.a4d?action=search.education>
<http://www.sacmetroarts.org/professional-development.html>

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