



Sacramento
Metropolitan
Arts Commission

Great Art Makes a Great Community



SMAC E-NEWSLETTER

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"Points of Interest" by Rhyena Halpern, Executive Director

"Stay in touch." This is a common phrase, but at SMAC we really mean it. Staying in touch is one of the most important services we provide. To this end, SMAC recently conducted a phone and e-mail survey with all 56 Cultural Arts Awards grantees plus 4 other arts organizations, to take a temperature reading on the state of their financial health during this severe economic downturn. As always, our dedicated arts organizations are moving forward with determination and realistic plans to stabilize funding, increase ticket sales and stay alive with high quality programming. They are forging ahead with the hope that SMAC will be there to support their efforts. And we will be there.

As many are aware, the arts are often on the chopping block during economic downturns. You may be proud to know that in our City and County, the arts are supported. Our elected officials know the arts are absolutely needed in the lives of its residents, in the quality of life of a region and in the economic engine of the local economy.

Support comes in many forms and recently SMAC received notice that we will be awarded a second year of funding in the amount of \$15,805 from the California Arts Council. This grant will help us market the arts in the community. We are very grateful for the CAC's support. Additionally, it is my sincere honor to announce that Friends of the Arts Commission has received a \$25,600 bequest from the estate of Richard "Dick" Schneeberger, a long-time supporter of the arts in Sacramento. We are deeply moved and honored by his gift and vision.

Please, stay in touch. We are here. We will get through this together.

We look forward to working with you in the New Year!

Warm Regards,
Rhyena Halpern

"Chair's View" by Dan Gorfain, Chair, Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission

HAPPY NEW YEAR! As we proudly reflect on SMAC's many accomplishments in 2008, we also look forward with great anticipation to a challenging and vigorous year ahead.

Like most public agencies, SMAC has seen its budget sharply trimmed. But our spirit and commitment to growing the arts in Sacramento and to enhancing Sacramento's quality of life remain strong. Both the Commission and its highly dedicated staff are working diligently to implement SMAC's recently adopted Strategic Business Plan, 2008-2013 by continuing to market the arts and providing support to artists, arts organizations and activities throughout our area.

A few of these action initiatives include the need to continue to integrate art into Sacramento's identity and culture, seek outside funds for new programs, and strengthen and expand existing partnerships as we pursue new opportunities to leverage resources.

We look forward to increasing the visibility of SMAC and helping art continue to flourish in Sacramento with support and participation by the arts community

and its supporters. "Great Art Makes a Great Community."

SMAC Highlight—Community Arts Programs Pilot Project

Provides Funds for Artists Collaborating with Social Service Organizations

The social service sector and the arts community are natural partners, working towards the same goals of healthy, thriving citizens, and sharing resources and cultures across neighborhoods. Many service organizations have long-standing relationships with populations in our region who have little access to hands on experiences in the arts, or to the benefits that come from involvement in arts education.

The Community Arts Programs (CAP) Pilot Project combines the strengths of both community organizations and the region's visual and performing artists to envision, plan and implement arts projects that have a substantial impact on the populations they serve. Projects might include an intensive multi-arts summer program; a wellness project that helps children explore self-esteem, body image and movement through dance; or an experiential theater program for cancer survivors where they create and perform a theater piece on their healing. Designing effective arts programming for citizens in our region is limited only by our collective creativity.

Based on our very successful Model Arts School District Program, SMAC will fund projects within 2-3 organizations, selecting and matching artists for the organizations through an RFP process, and providing collaborative help and professional development as needed.

Interested organizations can learn more about the CAP Pilot Project at an informational meeting on Wednesday, January 21st from 1-2 p.m. at the Arts Commission office, 2030 Del Paso Blvd., in Sacramento. Check www.SacMetroArts.org for more information.

TAWS: Teaching Artist Workshop Series

This January, SMAC's Arts Education staff is rolling out a new workshop series, TAWS, for artists of all kinds who like to teach. The free workshops are designed to address topics artists have told us they would like to know more about, like how to find and collaborate effectively with sponsoring organizations, how to know if what you are teaching is effective or where to find money or negotiate contracts for education projects. Local and national presenters will lead the workshops. There are also networking meetings scheduled with multiple topic tables and resources for artists to share with each other in a more informal way.

The first Teaching Artist Network Meeting is Saturday, January 24, from 9:30 a.m. - 12 noon at the South Natomas Community Center. Let us know if you'd like to come. Sign up on the SMAC website to receive Arts Education email blasts and check the website for the latest information on the TAWS schedule of events.



SMAC In Your Community--Art in Public Places Installs Two New Works of Art

Sacramento's public art collection recently added two new artworks to the ever growing 700-plus collection. The first artwork, by local artist John King, was unveiled on December 6 at Winner's Circle Park and Tot Lot in the heart of North Sacramento. The focal point of the artwork is a five-foot tall, stainless steel sculpture of a race horse, set atop a circular planter at the entrance of Winner's Circle Park. Additionally, steel silhouettes of race horses grace the stone walls at both sites. The artwork is titled "Run for the Roses" and honors James "Ben Ali" Haggin. Mr. Haggin is famous for breeding and training Ben Ali, California's first Kentucky Derby Winner.



The second artwork was created by Truckee muralist John Pugh and is a 29 foot trompe l'oeil mural titled Extended Family installed at the newly completed County Juvenile Hall Visitors Lobby. The mural features giant oak trees that look like they are bursting up through the ceiling of the building. When developing the mural's concept, the artist responded to the purpose of the visitors lobby, by creating a non-confrontational mural that is meant to elevate the mood of often anxious family members coming to the site. The great oaks are perfect subtle metaphors for human relationships and personal growth, known as trees of life or trees of knowledge.

Pugh's known for his trompe l'oeil, or "trick the eye" public art murals. "I have found that the 'language' of life-size illusions allows me to communicate with a very large audience. It seems almost universal that people take delight in being visually tricked. Once captivated by the illusion, the viewers are lured to cross an artistic threshold and thus seduced into exploring the concept of the piece."

To learn more about these works of art, please log onto the SMAC web site at www.sacmetroarts.org. Both pieces were commissioned by the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission, Art in Public Places. The King piece was also part of the APP Mentor Program and was installed with the support of Council Member Sandy Sheedy.

Opportunities--Art in Public Places (APP) Offers Opportunity to Become Tour Leader

Have you been thinking about volunteering in the New Year? Why not train to become an APP tour leader so you may lead tours of public art to school and adult groups!

The information session for new tour leaders will take place on Friday January 16th, 2009 at the SMAC offices located at 2030 Del Paso Blvd. From 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Following the information session a training program will begin for the new tour leaders starting Thursday, January 29th, at the SMAC office. Training will be two-and-a-half hours, once a week for six weeks.

Upon completion of the training program new tour leaders will begin to receive tour assignments for APP public art tours. The estimated time commitment for these tours is about 5 hours a month. Tour leaders must be available during weekday hours when most tours are conducted.

Additionally, if you are interested in scheduling a tour with a docent guide, please contact Dixie Laws, APP Education Coordinator, at (916) 386-8240, or dixie@dixielaws.com.



APP Gallery Exhibition Listing—Visit One Today!

SMUD Art Gallery
Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) Customer Service Center
6301 S Street at 65th Street
Sacramento, CA 95817
Hours - Monday – Friday 8:00 am – 6:00 pm
Located in the first floor lobby.

Exhibit: "I Can Do That! Artwork By Students From Very Special Arts"

Featuring: Artwork From Student Participants In VSA Artists-In-The-Schools Program.

Dates: January 12 – February 27

Public Reception: Friday, February 20, 5:00 – 7:00 Pm

Contact: SMAC (916) 566-3992, sacgalleries@comcast.net

Airport Gallery

Sacramento International Airport

Terminal B

6900 Airport Boulevard

Sacramento, CA 95837

Four enclosed exhibition cases are located in the public areas on the lower level of Terminal B. Three enclosed exhibition cases are located on each of the secured passenger concourses.

Exhibit: "Play Time: Historical Toys & Contemporary Art"

Dates: November 20, 2008- January 16, 2009

Artists: Suzanne Adan, James Adan, Clayton Bailey, Sohyung Choi, Chelsea Hunt, Miriam Morris, Ron Peetz, Izzy Schwartz, Michael Stevens

Robert T. Matsui Art Gallery--City of Sacramento City Hall

915 I Street

Sacramento, CA 95814

Located in the H Street lobby of the new City Hall building.

Exhibit: "Artwork from the Sacramento CETA Program"

Dates: Through Mid-January

Artists: Patrick Mooney, John Paquette, Sheila Sullivan, David White, Rory Nakata

Related Links:

<http://http://www.sacmetroarts.org/grants-and-model-programs.html>

<http://http://www.sacmetroarts.org/professional-development.html>

<http://http://www.sacmetroarts.org/whats-new.html>

<http://http://www.sacmetroarts.org/app-art-walks.html>

<http://http://www.sacmetroarts.org/gallery-program.html>

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