



## ArtsLIVE in Ventura County

A three-year initiative of the Ventura County Community Foundation in partnership with The James Irvine Foundation's *Communities Advancing the Arts*



## Artists in the Community Partnership Grants

### *Artists Working to Meet Community Needs*

*A program of the Ventura County Arts Council as part of ArtsLIVE in Ventura County Supported by The James Irvine Foundation's Communities Advancing the Arts Initiative and other contributions from local donors, funders and partners  
Total amount to be available for 2-year grant cycle: \$60,000*

The **Artist in Community Partnership Grants Program** has two purposes;

- create jobs by putting local artists to work applying their project leadership and creative problem solving skills to reaching community goals and to helping to solve community problems
- enhance the community through culturally significant art-making projects.

Many of the projects for which artists and their community partners requested funding focus on helping the non-arts community address organizational issues, work with their clientele, or address a larger community issue. Many also engage one or more of the three initiative focus groups in the artistic process – youth, seniors or underrepresented populations.

2009 Grants awarded to Artists in Community Partnerships include:

**Richard Brimer**, Camarillo, working with the ACTION Foundation, Camarillo, to create “Without Shelter,” a documentary film focusing on efforts to alleviate the challenges faced by the homeless, as seen through the eyes of an individual person living on the streets.

**Colleen Cason**, Thousand Oaks, working with the Long Term Care Ombudsman, Ventura, to create a video focused on long term care and nursing home issues. It will feature a senior who was once a contributing member of our community who now depends on the advocacy of LTCO, which protects the frail elderly in long-term care.

**Donna Granata**, Ventura, help create, promote and exhibit portraits of three accomplished Latino artists to be part of the Focus on the Masters archives of 135 artists, and to be exhibited as part of “The Art of Building Community” the first exhibit at the John Spoor Broome Library, CSUCI, Camarillo.

**MB Hanrahan**, Ventura, working with the students of Pacific High School, Ventura, on an interdisciplinary project that will culminate in a dimensional exterior mural. To develop the subject matter of the mural, students will study marine life of the Central Coast with emphasis on endangered species and sharks.

**Katrina Maksimuk**, Ventura, working with the Ventura County Rainbow Alliance, to create “The History Project” which will document Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered senior couples who live in Ventura County. Included in the film will be a social historical insight into the lives of LGBT persons.

**Jillian Nye**, Ventura, partnering with Prototypes Women’s Center, Oxnard, to give 4 weeks of classes which will include beauty make over sessions for residents plus teaching them how to draw and paint portraits of themselves and each other, leading to increased self-esteem. An onsite art exhibit with an opening reception will be held to display the portraits.

**Emily Thompson**, Ventura, partnering with the Buenaventura Arts Association to support a 3-day program capturing the native and natural beauty of the Channel Islands National Park working with girls from the Girls Club of Ventura Alliance League where they will produce sketches and photographs to exhibit during PhotoVentura '09.

**Hiroko Yoshimoto**, Ventura, working with Ventura College Foundation to exhibit original paintings depicting the aftermath of area wildfires, using charcoal and ashes collected at the wildfire sites. During the exhibit talks on the many ramifications of wildfires will be given by the firefighters, environmentalists, and fire survivors on fire safety and the devastation to our environment caused by the fires.

The important story of these grants programs is that the arts of all disciplines have a value to the community far beyond ‘entertainment’ or ‘leisure time activities.’ Artists bring creative thinking, leadership skills, and a deep commitment to their community. The arts are a valuable tool for making the county more livable.

“All community organizations are being asked to do more in these challenging times,” commented Margaret Travers, Executive Director of the Ventura County Arts Council. “Artists are stepping up to show they can be effective partners. The ultimate goal of this effort is to demonstrate how the arts can interact with other sectors of the community, to their mutual benefit, while at the same time using the inherent powers of the arts experience to expand the view of the arts in new populations. This program shows the community that artists have the skills that make them effective partners in solving many of the challenges that the communities are facing.”