

State of the ARTS

SEPTEMBER—DECEMBER, 2005

Magic Hour for photography in Ventura

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Photographers refer to the evanescent “magic hour” as that time of day, generally around sunrise or sunset, best for capturing the most amazing of images—when the sun is low in the sky, lighting conditions are optimum, and colors and contrasts deepen in intensity.

The premiere of *PhotoVentura*, our city’s month-long summer “festival of all things photographic,” along with a strong commitment by local art institutions to nurture the discipline and an uncountable number of gifted local artists active in the medium—truly marks a *magic hour* for photography in Ventura.

PhotoVentura, which ran from July 20 to August 20, featured the “photographies” of over 100 artists from abstract to Infrared, nostalgic to modern, with exhibits, lectures, performances and workshops at galleries, muse-

ums and businesses throughout Ventura. The Buenaventura Art Association sponsored the event, conceived by its president and professional photographer Stephen Schaf (Schaf), and was presented under the umbrella of the year-long Arts Explosion, facilitated by the San Buenaventura Foundation for the Arts.

Complementing these exhibitions was the summer 2005 issue of *VC Life & Style* magazine, a dedicated special photo edition that showcased dozens of county fine art photographers in all their variety. Among the striking artists featured was Lesley Daley, a photographer documenting illness in her book of cancer survivor portraits called *Goddesses don’t buy green bananas*.

The ongoing effort to get photography accepted as an art form is largely responsible for the diversity of techniques found in photography—all

well represented at *PhotoVentura*. Among the techniques exhibited at *PhotoVentura* is work by Linda Peterson, the first photographer selected as Featured Artist for the City of Ventura’s ArtWalks (in summer 2005), who paints with Polaroids.

“What makes Polaroid manipulation so intriguing for me is the hands-on ability to



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manipulate a photograph to resemble the image I view in my mind," said Linda. "The Polaroid photograph is my canvas. I am able to capture and re-create a seemingly by-gone, nostalgic period in time. Among my images are the *Beach Bicycle Rental Stand*, *Tony's Pizzeria* and the *Top Hat* (see image at right). I photograph such icons not only to document our city's endangered popular culture destinations but also to actually convey the very feel of the community as an emotional and cultural value worth protecting."

PhotoVentura also showed how photography in Ventura branches out to other media with painters, Susan Cook and Christine Beirne exhibiting paintings side by side with the photographs that inspired them. Painter and art instructor Debra McKillop exhibited prints from a recently re-discovered roll of film capturing a Ventura College life drawing workshop dating from 30 years ago that features many local painters still active today.



©linda peterson

Other photographers who exhibited at *PhotoVentura* are known for their cutting edge work including Alex Cooper; Chuck Spink, an ophthalmologist creating fine art black and white assemblages of found objects photographed in a romantic way; and David Rivas, whose mysterious "chromogenic" prints inspired by close-ups of everyday items and scenes captivate with their colorful abstractions (see image on front page). Best known for her mural work, MB Hanrahan generates "holiday card" images notorious for their avant-garde sensibilities and edgy subject matter.

Even "vernacular" photographs reached above their origins as snap shots taken by amateur photographers. A seminar on that topic was presented at the Ventura County Museum of History and Art and at Bell Arts Factory there was an exhibit of historical photos used by MB Hanrahan and Moses Mora to recreate the Tortilla Flats Mural project.

Photo-Nurturing Institutions

Next door and in our backyard, photography's future as a medium of digital, visual storytelling journalism can be seen with the expansion of the venerable 60-year-old Santa Barbara based Brooks Institute of Photography to a total enrollment of 2,400 students, renowned for training commercial photographers. Brooks now operates a Ventura campus with an emphasis on "visual journalism" and "visual communication." Current Brooks' students can be seen daily scouring the community for subject matter and many of Ventura's most active fine arts photographers (Schaf, Donna Granata and Ventura College's Bill Hendricks, to name a few) received training there.

Throughout the county institutional support for photography has never been higher. "Our historic photograph collection is well known and a wonderful resource to anyone studying county history," said Ventura County Museum of History and Art curator Anne Graumlich. The collection includes images by Ventura's prolific pioneer John Calvin Brewster of early streetscapes and forbearers, as well as large panoramic photos by Bernie Isensee and historic shots by Leslie White and Carl Wallace that look back into historical events such as the 1928 Saint Francis Dam disaster.

"We have recently been developing our fine arts photography collection, buying some photographs from local photographers," continued Anne. "Our efforts have been bolstered by a wonderful recent donation of photographs (John & Leslie Nichols Collection) that range in date from the 30s to 1990s. Regular small photography exhibits are now a permanent feature in our Hall Gallery with work by Newbury Park based John C. Lewis, collected by the Getty, on exhibit this fall." His show of black and white images of Mexican cityscapes and portraits in a variety of formats is called "Portraits of a Moment: Images of Mexico."

"The City of Ventura has set a good example of collecting and buying art and photographs for its Municipal Art Collection at City Hall," adds John Nichols, a photographer who exhibits antique and contemporary fine art photography at his business, the John Nichols Gallery in Santa Paula. "The Carnegie Art Museum in Oxnard now holds photography annuals, as does Santa Paula and the Ojai Art Center" which held its first anniversary photography show in April.

"The newest branch of art at our center is photography," said Roger Conrad, who assists photography director Marlene Rimensberger in mounting fine arts photography exhibits at the Ojai Art Center. "In Ojai, digital photography has helped elevate this step child of the art circle with the development of giclee prints of art in all mediums folding everything in together." Another Ojai venue, The Photo Gallery at the Hummingbird Inn, promotes more experimental and less commercial work as well as emerging artists. The Ojai Studio Artists group has always featured photographers," added Roger. "And photographer Nancy Rosen, new owner of Café Emporium, has made that venue a showcase for Ojai Valley photography."

"There's a cultural 'iron curtain' at the Conejo grade, with few artists and patrons willing to travel between east and west Ventura County," observed John Nichols, "but exhibits at the ambitious Studio Channel Islands at the new university in Camarillo are a boost that may help people and artists travel north and south to meet."

Good news for the Conejo Valley is the May opening of the Broken Oak Gallery dedicated to fine art photography and "outsider art." Owned by photographer Larry Janss, the gallery features local and national photographers. "Lots of artists are based in Thousand Oaks," says gallery manager Ryan Hunter. "Finding a place to show used to be hard, but now we have a place for local artists to exhibit and the local public to see their work. Our gallery is small but we had an amazing turnout for our opening. It seems that Thousand Oaks is realizing that the arts (and photography) are important and worth promoting in different venues throughout the city."

Focusing on our endangered or vanishing heritage

John Nichols, who has been a collector of old photographs for the last 35 years, believes vernacular photography is "one of the most exciting areas of photography now, gaining respect because its power of expression is detected by the viewer—no matter that images are only unintentionally artistic, like other forms of folk art." John maintains that "decay is photogenic" and is putting this belief to the test by documenting old signs in Santa Paula through his photography. "So much of our collective heritage has gone away. We know who won the

wars and fought the battles but don't know what dishes they used. Of millions of photos taken, most are snap shots. It takes sophistication to study everyday life through vernacular photography—it's like doing history backwards—but worth it in how it makes us less alienated and reconnects us to our humanity."

Documenting the area's leading artists for the future is Donna Granata, founder and executive director of Focus on the Masters (FOTM), one of Ventura's major non-profit arts organizations. FOTM's archives contain files and photos of almost 700 area artists in all media and disciplines and have become a resource for the Getty Museum and Steinbeck Foundation in mounting their own exhibits on Horace Bristol and Dorothea Lange's images of Depression-era migrants. Horace Bristol, who grew up and got his start in Santa Paula as a portrait photographer, attended the Art Center in Pasadena. His family's connection to the newspaper business led to his renowned career in photojournalism for *Life* magazine.

Even the very forms of photography are in danger of obsolescence. "Digital formats keep getting outdated," says Schaf. In reaction to photography's digital revolution, Liz Schwitter, a Moorpark photographer and printmaker, is known for her alternative processes, such as using large

pinhole cameras to create 8 x 10 cyanotypes in the darkroom.

Schaf himself is devoted to black and white techniques and the unpredictable results of Infrared—a film sensitive to light that can't be detected by the human eye. His Infrared prints



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evoke a sense of timelessness created by moody, dream-like and nostalgic landscapes, mostly un-peopled, depicting America's history of back road and off the map vernacular architecture of gas stations, hardware stores and luncheonettes (see image above).

Living on crumbs

Does photography in Ventura County have a future beyond its magic hour? "It's a tough gig," said Schaf, about making it as a professional photographer here. "But on the

plus side, it is a newer creative outlet or medium than other arts and it does not take decades to learn the craft like sculpting. And what we photographers in Ventura lack in sophisticated exhibition venues we make up for in pure energy and a quirky funkiness that is very attractive to visitors and residents who go to our exhibits."

Some fine art photographers walk a careful line towards commercial work. Tim Hauf is a photographer of note whose books and calendars on Ventura landscapes and landmarks are stunning and popular. Michael Moore, a Sespe landscape photographer, has shifted to commercial work almost full time; particularly well known are his ad images for Volvo.

"If you counted all the photographers creating, printing and exhibiting, there's more photographers than collectors in Ventura County," rejoins John Nichols. "Speaking for our photographic artists, we can live on crumbs but we can't live on air! The dirty little secret of our arts walks and art scenes is—where are our collectors? We need more of a commitment by the residents of Ventura County to support their artists." And, adds Schaf, "Photography is ironically the most affordable art form to collect, go figure." 

heritage tours, granting, technical assistance, oversight of facilities and the Downtown Cultural District, public art, and many special initiatives, including the implementation of the 2005 Cultural Plan: Creating California's New Art City.

"Following in the footsteps of arts leaders whom I respect and admire, I am humbled, honored and energized by this promotion to Cultural Affairs Manager. The Cultural Affairs Division is comprised of a highly committed and expert team that I am proud to be a member of," says Kerry. "With the creation of the new cultural plan, Ventura is at a fertile time. There is breadth of leadership, vision and a spirit of partnership in the arts community. A swell is forming, and all boats rise with the tide. I am confident that through working together, Ventura's art community will create a vibrant and authentic cultural destination, intertwining culture with everyday life. I look forward to continue working with our talented artists, arts organizations, and community leaders towards this goal."

Since 1999, Kerry has overseen the public art program through a large number of significant projects, including the completion of *Bus-Home*, the new installation at the Community Park by Anita Margrill, the Municipal Art Acquisition Program, and the Ventura Harbor Wetlands Environmental Art Master Plan. She has also overseen the Downtown ArtWalks and assisted in initiatives like the Cultural Affairs Division Annual Report and the creation of the Cultural Plan.

Prior to joining the City, Kerry held a variety of positions in the non-profit and commercial arts fields. She most recently worked as the project coordinator for the CEO and executive director of Galerie Michael, a Beverly Hills fine art gallery that specializes in Rembrandt etchings, 19th Century French paintings, and works by Modern masters such as Picasso, Matisse, and Leger. Prior to that she was an art appraiser and office manager for A.S.A. Art Appraisals: Images Of Culture and was operations manager for the design firm, A Liquid Affair. Kerry was also a member of the public relations team that prepared for the opening of the new Getty Center.

Kerry graduated with honors from UCLA with a degree in Art History and a specialization in Business Administration. She has a certificate in Appraisal Studies in Fine and Decorative Arts through UC Irvine Extension, awarded in collaboration with the American Society of Appraisers. An active member of numerous regional organizations for arts professionals, Kerry also serves on the board for the Ventura County Arts Council. Kerry can be reached at 805.658.4768 or email kadams@ci.ventura.ca.us.

Cultural Affairs Appointments



Kerry Adams Hapner

Cultural Affairs Manager

On August 1, Kerry Adams Hapner was appointed to the position of Cultural Affairs Manager after serving in the role in an interim capacity for nearly six months. A familiar face in the local arts community, Kerry had served as the City's Public and Visual Art Supervisor for the past five and a half years. In her new role, Kerry will be taking on a very broad scope of responsibility. She will lead the Division's efforts in special events, classes, historic and

Karen Hall

Cultural Affairs Coordinator



Karen Hall joined the Cultural Affairs Division in June as the new Cultural Affairs Coordinator for Arts and Historic Programs. Karen brings a diverse and rich background to her duties with the City, which include developing historic and cultural tours, providing oversight of the Olivas Adobe, managing the Music Under the Stars series and producing special events relating to Ventura's heritage.

Among her varied experiences, Karen previously directed marketing and development for the Ojai Music Festival and has coordinated outreach and public information for the Ventura

County Department of Child Support Services. Karen also has experience in the tourism industry, having owned and managed a large corporate travel agency. Additional knowledge of arts administration has come through her hand in the production of various theater and film events and prior work as a professional actress.

Already, Karen has developed an ambitious season of tours for fall (see article on page 6), which is just the beginning of what's to come. "I'd like to explore the city in new ways, and add tours and events that are exciting and fun for people with different interests. One of my goals is to educate both students and adults about architecture and the importance of city planning," she says. "I would love to hear people's ideas for tours. I am also looking for people who are passionate about architecture, art and history and want to share their knowledge as tour guides." Karen Hall can be reached at 805.658.4728 or email khall@ci.ventura.ca.us. ☒

ART/LIFE
Turns 25

An important anniversary will be celebrated at the end of this year by *ART/LIFE* a small, yet notable, artistic journal produced in Ventura by editor and publisher Joe Cardella (seen below). In the 25 years since Joe compiled the first four-page xeroxed issue of *ART/LIFE*, it has become an

internationally respected publication in which nearly every page is an original work of art. Each month's issue presents a diverse array of media, including collages, original prints and photos, dimensional objects, poetry and prose. Although *ART/LIFE* limits its circulation to only 100 copies, its impact is remarkable. It is collected by such major institutions as New York's Museum of Modern Art, the Boston Museum of Fine Arts, and the Getty Trust. It is also in many private collections, archives and museums throughout the United States, Europe, and Japan. *ART/LIFE* is also amongst the best selling periodicals at the Guggenheim Museum bookstore in New York.

While *ART/LIFE* is now well established, it began as a four-page newsletter produced by Joe who needed to reach out to like-minded conceptual and progressive artists. "I felt I was in a terribly isolated situation, surrounded by people who were not attuned to what I was trying to do." Reproducing the first *ART/LIFE* on a photocopied machine, he hoped for a journal that, "when sent, a communication will hopefully be received, deciphered, and responded to." The result became a phenomenon that grew beyond its California roots and now comprises an international network of artists, poets, and writers. *ART/LIFE* has developed beyond the original black and white photocopied format and today artists and writers submit signed and numbered editions of original work with the only limitation being it must fit within an 8 1/2" x 11" page. Joe compiles and binds them into a cohesive whole. His editing results in a striking relationship among the different visual and literary works within each limited edition.

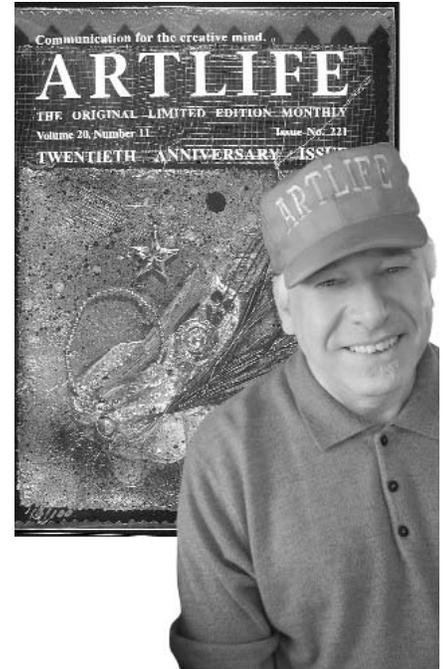


photo of Joe: dina@fourfiftyone.com

The Ventura Artists Union Gallery will host a month long celebration of the *ART/LIFE* 25th anniversary in December with an exhibition of past issues, photographs by Dina Pielaet of Joe and *ART/LIFE* artifacts, as well as examples of Joe's own art. There will also be poetry readings by *ART/LIFE* contributors throughout the month. The opening reception for the exhibit will take place on December 3, starting at 6 pm. For more information on the exhibit visit the Artists' Union website, venturaartistsunion.org. ☒

Insights

Interviews with Kerry Adams Hapner

Insights encourages a creative exchange of ideas, processes, and artistic thought through glimpses of people involved in a variety of artistic disciplines.



Tom Mathews

Director, Buena Ventura Art Gallery

You have a lot going on with your career. What makes you happiest?

Getting to know individual artists.

What book are you reading right now?

Duveen, a biography about an early 20th century art dealer for the rich and famous.

What is a favorite show you've seen recently?

The Paul Strand photo exhibit at the Getty.

How do you describe Ventura?

The "Small Easy." Comfortable. It fits my personality.

Why do you live in Ventura?

The beach, the mountains, the affordable housing (ha ha ha).

What is your vision for Ventura in 5 years?

The New Art City. I'd like to see that happen.

Rothko or Rembrandt?

Yes.

Moby or Mozart?

Mozart.

Mac or PC?

Both, I have one of each, but prefer the Mac....I think.

Recent personal achievement you are proud of?

Finding a sauvignon blanc that I can actually appreciate. At Trader Joe's, no less.

Goal for the next year?

To settle down with a special woman.



Jim Luttjohann

Ventura Visitors & Convention Bureau Executive Director and Cultural Affairs Commissioner

You have a lot going on with your career. What makes you happiest?

I am happiest when tapping into my creative side. I especially enjoy plotting new ways to attract visitors to our community through marketing initiatives and public relations efforts.

What books are you reading right now?

There are two—The Brand Mindset by Duane Knapp and Designing Brand Identity by Alina Wheeler.

What is a favorite show you've seen recently?

On TV—I am addicted to Six Feet Under and Monk. On Stage—The Rubicon's production of Tuesdays with Morrie.

How do you describe Ventura?

Real

Why do you live in Ventura?

Actually I live in Santa Paula. I moved there in 1997, after ten years in Ventura. I moved to Ventura from Malibu, and chose it (Ventura) because it felt like home. Ventura still feels like home, even though I now live 13 miles up the road.

What is your vision for Ventura in 5 years?

I envision a thriving cultural district in a downtown teaming with the activity of its unique shops and restaurants, a harbor that is known well beyond our region as the point of embarkation for the Channel Islands National Park, as well as another place for great shopping and dining. The Westside will be our own version of Soho or Soma, with trendy bohemian.

an culture omnipresent and mid-town will have been discovered for its amazing architecture. Of course I also envision our hotels operating at capacity and our visitors will be bragging to their friends and neighbors that they have just spent a wonderful vacation in Ventura.

Rothko or Rembrandt?

Rembrandt. His use of light is amazing.

Moby or Mozart?

Definitely Moby, but I have both on my iPod along with a lot of Latin Jazz.

Mac or PC?

I prefer a PC, but live with a Mac lover, so I am sort of bi-computer.

Recent personal achievement you are proud of?

Completion of the VCB's three-year strategic plan, and the implementation of so many of the objectives outlined therein.

Goal for the next year?

A real vacation—a long one to some place like Katmandu or Machu Pichu.



Donna Granata

**Photographer and Executive Director,
Focus on the Masters**

You have a lot going on with your career, what makes you happiest?

I am happiest when my life is running along like a well-oiled machine. I have so many extraordinary people who work with me that share the same goals and when we are all in unison it is intoxicating for all of us. Being surrounded by intellectually stimulating, energetic, positive and talented people makes a very interesting and invigorating environment.

What book are you reading right now?

Additional Dialog, the Letters of Dalton Trumbo 1942-1962 edited by Helen Manfull in preparation for my interview with playwright Christopher Trumbo, Dalton Trumbo's son. Dalton Trumbo was a multiple Academy Award winning writer

blacklisted during the McCarthy era. His son has written a play based on the letters that encapsulate this dark period in our nation's history and the effect it had on the Trumbo family.

What is a favorite show you've seen recently?

The most recent exhibition I have seen is the Tut exhibit in LA. It instills in the viewer a keen sense of history. The exhibit is an amazing demonstration of how advanced the ancient culture was.

How do you describe Ventura?

Bursting at the seams with talent and potential.

Why do you live in Ventura?

Ventura has everything: an artistic population, natural beauty, gorgeous weather and citizens who really care about the future of the community. I love being part of this area and being able to contribute to the greater good in a meaningful way.

What is your vision for Ventura in 5 years?

I visualize Ventura developing into a nationally recognized artistic community. Not only will Ventura attract people to experience the wealth of the talent of our citizens but will continue to develop into a community that supports and sustains our artists. We need to plan the next five years very carefully. The artistic community plays a very important role in the overall health of our city and its citizens and contributes greatly to our economic vitality.

Rothko or Rembrandt?

Both! Rothko for his color, balance and scale and Rembrandt for his brilliant use of light and shadow, composition, incredible texture and technique. Both men were pure genius.

Moby or Mozart?

Both! I believe we should be exposed to all forms of art.

Recent personal achievement you are proud of?

I was honored this year by Elderhostel International as a Teacher of the Year. The black tie ceremony, held at the Disney Hall in Los Angeles, celebrated Elderhostel's 30th Anniversary while honoring co-founders Marty Knowlton and David Bianco. The event was attended by some of my students from all over the county. It is an incredible feeling to be acknowledged for what you truly love to do.

Goal for the next year?

To cut back my workload to do only the things I do best. I would like to concentrate my energy on the documentation of the artists, my photography and teaching. 

Eye on Education

Teaching to the Standards

Recently, City of Ventura Cultural Affairs Coordinator Kathryn Dippong Lawson had the opportunity to attend a series of workshops offered by the Los Angeles Music Center Education Division on how teachers can provide arts education in the classroom based on the standards developed by the State Board of Education. Through the collaborative relationship that has been formed between the Ventura Education Partnership (VEP), the Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) and the City of Ventura in the form of the Arts Education Advocacy Collaborative, the hope is to bring a similar series of workshops to Ventura for local teachers, arts organizations and artists.

Adopted in January 2001, the California arts education content standards provide guidance to schools in designing curricula for the programs they offer in the disciplines of dance, music, theater and the visual arts. The standards state explicitly, for the first time in California history, the content that needs to be considered for inclusion in visual and performing arts programs at each grade level, pre-kindergarten through grade eight. The standards also specify the content that should be considered for visual and performing arts courses in grades nine through twelve, typically for students at proficient and advanced levels. An exciting element of the standards is that they incorporate both traditional means of artistic expression and newer media, such as cinematography, video, and computer-generated visual design. The components of the standards include artistic perception, creative expression, historical and cultural context, aesthetic valuing, and connections, relationships, and applications.

Though the content standards provide guidance in crafting the curricula they do not explicitly spell out how to design and implement the curricula in each school district and grade level. It is the role of local school officials and

interested and concerned parties in the community to take the standards and design specific curricular and instructional strategies that best deliver the content to students. The State Board of Education also encourages local agencies to consider ways in which to infuse visual and performing arts into other subject areas for purposes of interdisciplinary instruction. To date, in our local school district, there has not been a concentrated and collaborative effort to implement the arts education standards, hence the pressing need for instructive workshops for local arts educators.

The courses offered by the Los Angeles Music Center will provide a strong model on which the Arts Education Advocacy Collaborative can base its workshops. The Music Center has been a leader and early adopter in arts education initiatives since 1981. Through the arts education Institutes for Educators they have offered professional development opportunities in the arts allowing participants to develop an increased comfort-level and acquire knowledge, skill, and resources to teach standards-based performing and visual arts lessons within their classroom curriculum.



©donna granata

With Kathryn's first hand knowledge of the Music Center model, the Arts Education Advocacy Collaborative is committed to offering workshops for local artists and arts agencies and hopes to have the first workshops in place by spring of 2006. For more information contact Kathryn at 805.644.6542 or email kdippong@ci.ventura.ca.us. 

Public Art The new Community Park

This fall, after much anticipation, the Ventura Community Park opens to the public. The park, located on Telephone Road at Kimball Road, includes an aquatic center with a competitive pool, water slides, and a water park as well as acres of sports fields, and several wonderful works of engaging public art. Public artist Anita Margrill's three works for the park play an integrative role in the design and function of this state of the art complex.

Like many design team collaborative projects, this large municipal capital improvement project has been a long

process for this committed artist. In June 2001, the Public Art Commission approved the artist selection panel's choice of Anita Margrill to develop public art for the Ventura Community Park. The panel was comprised of Public Art Commissioner Scott Boydstun, Parks & Recreation



Commissioner Ed Wehan, and City of Culver City Public Art Management Analyst Vida Brown. Anita subsequently received a \$20,000 design contract to collaborate with the Ventura Community Park design team.

Anita developed three public art elements, *Butterfly Cluster*, *Sunshades* (see photo above), and *Trellis Lights*, to be integrated into the park site. In June 2002, the Public Art Commission approved her final design of the three art works. During the construction phase, she has served as the artistic coordinator, overseeing the complex fabrication and installation of the innovative art elements. The budget for the construction of all three works was \$206,000.

Inspired by the Harmon Barranca on the west side of the park site, a habitat for the Monarch butterfly, Anita developed a sculptural lighting element entitled *Butterfly Cluster* to be sited in the planter of a round seating element. The work includes LED lit butterflies mounted on 6' to 8' round poles that oscillate slightly in the wind. Masterfully architectonic, *Sunshades* feature four sun and weather shelters approximately 19' in diameter. Each shelter is two hues of a different color; selected colors are blue, red, yellow, and green. The playful shapes of the sunshades were inspired by wings and evoke a sense of flight. Together, *Butterfly Cluster* and *Sunshades* form the "Butterfly Oasis" in the Aquatic Center.

Trellis Lights consist of an integrated lighting system placed at the top of four capitals that support a trellis sited near a main entrance to the park. The lights are interlocking light boxes that will be lit at night with a cool hue of glacier blue. A sculptural lighting element, *Trellis Lights* will enhance the public's sense of arrival into this major community center.

An award-winning California artist, Anita has created public art projects for over 25 years. Anita's past projects have focused on cultural, technological and environmental issues and have been design collaborations with architects, landscape architects, engineers, educators, other artists, and the public. She has served on the design team for numerous projects including the Dallas Police Headquarters, San Francisco's MUNI Third Street Light Rail, Santa Clara Valley Transportation Authority light rail stations, and Exploration Place, a discovery museum in Wichita, KA. She attended Cranbrook Academy of Art, received her bachelor of art from Bennington College, her bachelor of architecture from CUNY School of Architecture and Environmental Studies, and her master of art in Interdisciplinary Arts from San Francisco State University. A licensed architect, she has designed and built numerous private and public projects and holds copyrights and patents.



New Tour Season

Explore Ventura's History & Culture

The retirement last year of Cultural Affairs Coordinator Richard Senate, ghost hunter, historian and folklorist, resulted in a drastic reduction in the number of tours offered this past spring and summer. Finding a replacement for Richard's unique set of talents and experiences was no easy task, as he had been the driving force behind the existing historical tour program. In June of this year the City hired Karen Hall as the new Cultural Affairs Coordinator for Arts and Historic Programs to breathe new life into the program (see "Appointments" on page 3).

Under Karen's direction, the new tour season will kick off in September with A Taste of Downtown Ventura, a walking tour of downtown, which includes a closer look at some of Ventura's beautiful historical buildings, with samples of local cuisine provided at Nona's Courtyard Café in the historic Bella Maggiore Inn, and at 71 Palm Restaurant, located in a beautifully restored 1910 craftsman cottage.

A September bus tour, Mid-Town Confidential, provides an alternative for people who prefer to let their fingers do the walking. Ventura Architectural Weekend organizer, Cynthia Thompson will share her knowledge about the notable beautiful Spanish Revival homes located in mid-town and the families who owned them. A complimentary copy of the Midtown Ventura Historical Walking Tour book comes with the tour, along with a trip to the California Store, a popular celebrity haunt for authentic period furniture. Finally, participants will enjoy appetizers, at Cafe Nouveau, the location of one of oldest continuously operating family owned restaurants in the county.

In October, tour participants will bask in the harbor's cool ocean breezes while enjoying a guided cruise on the Bay Queen. Back on dry land, tour participants will visit Fisherman's Memorial and enjoy the fabulous public art collection at the Harbor Village. The tour group will also enjoy a wine tasting at Milano's, some sushi at Harbor Sushi, a sampling of Greek appetizers and a visit to the Buenaventura Art Gallery.

Art lovers can enjoy a tour of downtown murals in November. The tour begins with an introduction to the murals and art collection at Ventura City Hall and continues down California St. to examine other prominent murals and art.

The rich folkloric tradition established by Richard Senate has not been abandoned. Glenda Jackson, who is an expert on the Victorian Era, will lead a tour around Plaza Park, with a discussion on Victorian mourning traditions, as well as a tour/ghost hunt at the Olivas complete with ghost tales and dousing rods. In the spirit of the fall season, Richard himself will return at the end of October for the annual "Spooktacular" series of tours that have become a tradition in our community.

Ventura's City Hall comes alive under Richard's storytelling magic and after examining the ornate 1912 building, the flashlight tour continues with ghosts of Poli Street and Downtown Ventura. Stops include a haunted hospital, restaurant, bank building and hotel and ends at the Bella Maggiore Inn. Richard's wife, psychic Debbie Christenson Senate,



will join him and on All Hallows' Eve they will lead brave participants through the historic 1847 adobe of Don Raymundo Olivas, rumored to be one of the most haunted places in the Golden State. Richard will recount the tales of the mysterious "lady in black" that have swirled around the 19th Century home, now a museum.

To register for tours call 805.658.4726 or register on-line through eRecreation at www.cityofventura.net. 

Ventura AuthentiCity

The City of Ventura has partnered with the San Buenaventura Conservancy's Ventura Architecture Weekend and the Ventura Music Festival during the weekend of the Harvest ArtWalk, November 4-6, to create a jam-packed weekend full of art, architecture and music being billed as VenturaAuthentiCity.

The weekend will kick-off on Friday, November 4 from 5 to 9 pm with the new Upstairs-Downtown Tour presented as part of the Ventura Architecture Weekend. If you've ever wondered what's happening above the Main Street stores this tour is for you. Along the route of this self-guided tour, many businesses will open their doors to their upstairs areas that feature examples of both contemporary and historic offices such as the location where Earle Stanley Gardner wrote the Perry Mason novels. A reception will be held that evening at the Livery.

On Saturday, November 5, from 11 am to 4 pm, check out the Westside & Downtown Home Tours, then stay downtown till 9 pm and stroll through the shops and galleries to view over 80 participating exhibits and over 20 live performances during Harvest ArtWalk. At 8 pm, if your feet are tired but your heart craves music, sit down and tap your toes at the Serra Center for an evening of world-class blues music presented by the Ventura Music Festival. On Sunday, November 6, more of Ventura's architectural treasures will be open from 11 am to 4 pm.

ArtWalk is always a free event, but tickets are required for the architecture tours and blues concert. Prices range from \$20 to \$100 depending on the number of events attended. For more information, or tickets, call the Visitors Bureau at 805.648.2075 or 800.483.6214. 

Harvest Artwalk

Featured artist

The City of Ventura Cultural Affairs Division announces Irena Jablonski as the Harvest ArtWalk Featured Artist. She will showcase her works at the Buenaventura Gallery at 700 E. Santa Clara Street, where she is a member, during the Harvest ArtWalk on Saturday, November 5 from 3 to 9 pm. A panel of artists, merchants and community members selected Irena's figurative oil painting *Reading in a Blue Robe* (seen right) to be featured on the ArtWalk marketing materials.



The artist's figurative paintings are purely impressionist or influenced by the American Post-Impressionism movement. Irena expresses herself with art, "I paint with all I know and all I feel—I paint with my very being."

Over the last three years, Irena has taken part in numerous exhibitions, both national and international in scope and has received 28 awards. Irena is represented by the American Art Gallery in Deauville, France as well as by six California galleries including William Merrill Gallery in Laguna Beach. To view Irena Jablonski's paintings check out her website www.portraittime.com. For more information on the Harvest ArtWalk call Robin Elander, Cultural Affairs Coordinator, at 805.658.4760 or email relander@ci.ventura.ca.us. 

Special Events

City hosts Autumn Fest and Holiday Street Festival

This year the Cultural Affairs Division will be hosting a new event, Autumn Fest, in the Downtown Cultural District's Plaza Park. On Saturday, September 24th, from 10 am to 4 pm,

over 100 fine artists, arts and craft, non-profit and food vendors will be on hand to welcome the fall season.

Autumn Fest is planned as an annual event to take place the 4th Saturday in September. The free event combines shopping among local vendors with a day in the park during Ventura's typically pleasant fall weather. Bring picnic blankets for the leisurely enjoyment of an afternoon of food and entertainment. In order to give the event a neighborhood feel, local entertainers will be highlighted at the gazebo stage.

Vendors will be placed on the grass lining the pavement walkway of the park. Registration fees range from \$40 to \$125.

"Holiday Dreams" is the theme for the Holiday Street Festival scheduled for Sunday, December 4, 2005. The festival is now in its 29th year of celebrating the holidays in the Downtown Cultural District. This year there will be an extra hour to enjoy the festivities with the event beginning at 10 am rather than the traditional 11 am start time.

The Holiday Street Festival will be accepting vendor and community group applications beginning Tuesday, September 6. Entertainers that are interested in



performing at one of the four major stages are asked to submit a press kit with demo CD. Groups that would like to provide wandering holiday themed entertainment throughout the street festival are also encouraged to apply.

Over the years, the Holiday Street Festival has been a favorite for holiday shopping, providing the opportunity for the public to purchase unique handcrafted gifts and meet up with friends. Organizers are eager to host a fabulous event this year after the disappointment of the 2004 event being cancelled due to bad weather. Last year, a smaller scale makeup event was organized at Plaza Park called the "Holiday Rain Check Sale" that became the impetus for the new Autumn Fest event. In the chance that the December 4th event is cancelled, the Holiday Street Festival will be scheduled for Sunday, December 11 at Plaza Park.

Applications are available for both the Autumn Fest and the Holiday Street Festival. Call 805.654.7830 or on-line at www.venturastreetfairs.com. 

Alive After 5

1st Thursdays

The 1st Thursdays Alive After 5 season is coming to a close but not without two grand finale events to take place on Thursday, September 1 and Thursday October 6 in Ventura's Downtown Cultural District from 5 pm to 8:30 pm. On September 1, one block will be closed to vehicles so everyone can dance the summer away on California Street. On the Tiki Stage the band String Theory will play covers from the Beatles to Reggae. In addition to California Street, sidewalk performances will flood Main Street for six blocks from the Ventura County Museum to Fir Street. \$5 menus will be available at participating Alive After 5 restaurants.

October 6th is the final event of the season, with the Tiki Stage headliner Troy Dixon Band performing a folk fusion repertoire, blending influences of country, rock, folk and soul in a style that is uniquely their own. The City's Economic Development and Cultural Affairs Divisions sponsored Alive After 5 as a pilot program to enhance the vibrancy of the Downtown Cultural District during the week. The Divisions will evaluate the success of the program and seek funding over the winter in order to start the series again next summer. Please visit www.venturaaliveafter5.com to check out the latest news. 

GrantSmart

Arts grants awarded to Ventura schools

Over the past year a budding partnership has been forming between the City of Ventura Cultural Affairs Division and the Ventura Educational Partnership (VEP) in the form of the Arts Education Advocacy Collaboration (AEAC). One of the most immediate issues that rose to the forefront in these discussions was, of course, funding.

Awarding small project grants to staff members for programs to take place in the Ventura Unified School District (VUSD) has long been a part of VEP's mission. Recognizing that there were increasing requests for funding of arts projects through this process, VEP was looking to create more opportunities to integrate the arts into the VUSD. Because

of the need for more arts funding, one of the first joint ventures resulting from the AEAC was the establishment of a separate VEP GrantSmart Arts Grants. The program allows VUSD staff to apply for up to \$1,000 in seed funding for art programs in the schools. The City contributed \$4,000 towards the arts grants program that was matched by VEP to bring the total allocation to \$8,000 for programs to take place in fall 2005.

The success of the first Arts Grants collaboration has sparked the City's Cultural Affairs Commission to earmark an additional \$4,000 in funds for the current fiscal year that will once again be matched by VEP. The City plans on working with VEP to refine the guidelines so that grants will go to fund well planned artist in the classroom initiatives. As the AEAC grows and solidifies, the organization will continue



to facilitate opportunities that impact local schools by encouraging local agencies to fund arts education and to create arts friendly policies in the schools.

So far, eleven Arts Grants awards have been made to schools throughout VUSD, including elementary, middle and high school sites. Projects funded:

- Lincoln School—
Grade 5 Legacy Tiles and The Art of Digital Storytelling
- Blanche Reynolds School—
Open Classroom and Art & Music in Motion
- Juana Maria School—
Performing Chorus and 3rd Grade Art
- Poinsettia—History Comes Alive
- Elmhurst—Art Medium Exposure
- Will Rogers Elementary—Band
- Anacapa—Mural Project
- El Camino—Quilt Making & Design

VEP board member, Patricia McCart-Malloy, contributed to this story. 

cultural calendar

list your event in the January–April, 2006 calendar at <http://www.ci.ventura.ca.us/email/cs/caform.shtm>

september

1 thu Through Sept. 12 Arts Gallery Buenaventura Arts Association Ventura Harbor Village 10 am–7 pm 648.1235	Through Sept. 18 A Delicate Balance Elite Theatre Company Petit Playhouse Fri. & Sat. 8:30 pm, Sunday 2 pm \$15, \$13 sr/student 483.5118	Through October 2 “Garage Art” San Buenaventura Artists’ Union Reception: 8/27, 6–9 pm Thu 12–6 pm, Fri/Sat 12–9 Sun 12–6 pm Free 653.6380		Through November Wendy Lefkowitz Watercolor Artist Solo Show Fox Fine Jewelers Reception: 7/17, 6–9 pm	Through January 8 George Stuart Historical Figures Ventura County Museum of History & Art \$4 adult, \$3 senior, \$1 child, members free 653.0323 ext. 10
1 thu Alive After 5 Presented by Cultural Affairs Division Ventura’s Downtown Cultural District 5–8:30 pm Free 658.4753		3 sat Through Sept. 29 Masks of the Heart and Soul Reception: Sept. 4 Ojai Center for the Arts Free		4 sun Tune Bandits See You In September Concert Series Ventura Harbor Village 1–4 pm Free 642.8538 venturaharborvillage.com	
5 mon Jack Wilson’s Magic See You In September Concert Series Ventura Harbor Village 1–4 pm Free 642.8538 venturaharborvillage.com	6 tue Tuesday Talk Series with Alice Matzkin Focus on the Masters The Bridge 7–8:30 pm \$10, \$5 senior/student, members free 653.2501 FocusOnTheMasters.com	10 sat Through Nov. 27 Never Grow Up: Playthings from the Past Ventura Co. Museum of History & Art \$4 gen, \$3 sr, \$1 child members free		Taste of Downtown Ventura Tour Presented by Cultural Affairs 1:30–3 pm \$25 658.4726	Creative Jump Start: Hands-On Workshop for Grown-Ups Vta. Co. Museum of History & Art 2:30–4 pm \$5 member, \$10 gen.
10 sat Portraits of a Moment: Images of Mexico Ventura Co. Museum of History & Art Reception: 5–7 pm 4 gen, \$3 sr, \$1 child, member free 653.0323	Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde—Silent Movie Music Under the Stars Summer Concert Series Olivas Adobe 7:30–9:30 pm \$18 adult, \$16 sr./child 658.4726		11 sun Desert Breeze Band See You In September Concert Series Ventura Harbor Village 1–4 pm Free 642.8538 venturaharborvillage.com		16 fri Masterpiece Series Concert New West Symphony Oxnard Performing Arts Center 8 pm \$18–\$83 1.800.New West
17 sat Fire and Light Festival Artists’ Union Arts Explosion event 12–8 pm California Street Plaza Free 653.6380		Taste of Downtown Ventura Tour Presented by Cultural Affairs Division 1:30–3 pm \$25 658.4726	Kinetic Sculpture Race Ventura Harbor Village Free 642.8538		Out of the Blue with Bob Berkly Performances To Grow On Scherr Forum Theatre, Thousand Oaks 7 pm \$14–\$18 646.8907
18 sun Play With History Family Time Ventura Co. Museum of History & Art 12–3 pm Free 653.0323	Yogi Mango See You In September Concert Series Ventura Harbor Village 1–4 pm Free 642.8538	22 thu Visioning & Goal Setting Artists Workshop 1 City Hall 6–9 pm \$95/series of 3 658.4726	24 sat Autumn Fest Presented by Cultural Affairs Division 10 am–4 pm Ventura Plaza Park free 654.7830	Mid-Town Confidential Bus Tour Cultural Affairs Division 10–11:30 am \$25 658.4726	29 thu Creative Marketing Artists Workshop 2 City Hall 6–9 pm \$95/series of 3 658.4726

october

1 sat Japanese Woodblock Printmaking Demonstration Ventura County Museum of History & Art 1–4 pm Free 653.0323	Tales from the Plaza Tour Presented by Cultural Affairs Division 1–3 pm \$12 658.4726		2 sun Bernie Barlow Fall at the Harbor Concert Series Ventura Harbor Village 1–4 pm Free 642.8538 venturaharborvillage.com		Ensemble Bella Musica California Lutheran University PreusBrant Forum 4 pm Donation \$10–\$15
4 tue Tuesday Talk Series with Kathy McGuire Focus on the Masters The Bridge 7–8:30 pm \$10, \$5 senior/student, members free 653.2501		6 thu Alive After 5 Presented by Cultural Affairs Division Ventura’s Downtown Cultural District 5–8:30 pm Free 658.4753	Building Belief in Your Work Artists Workshop 3 City Hall 6–9 pm \$95/series of 3 658.4726	7 fri Through Oct. 16 Ventura County Arts Week Ventura County Arts Council Various Locations 658.2213	8 sat Through Nov. 13 Art Show: “Woman” San Buenaventura Artists’ Union Reception: 6–9 pm Free 650.8252
8 sat 	Museum Gone Wild: Reptiles to Raptors Ventura County Museum of History & Art 1–3:30 pm \$4 general, \$3 sr, \$1 child, members free 653.0323	Ventura Harbor— It’s not just fish! Tour, Cruise, Wine Taste Presented by Cultural Affairs Division Ventura Harbor Village 4–5:30 pm \$25 642.8538	9 sun Maestro Fall at the Harbor Concert Series Ventura Harbor Village 1–4 pm Free 642.8538 venturaharborvillage.com	11 tue Also October 12 Alexander Who’s Not Going To Move Performances To Grow On Fred Kavli Theatre, T.O. 10 am and noon \$12, \$8/groups 646.8907	
14 fri Snake Trio— Jazz from Venezuela Performances To Grow On Matilija Auditorium, Ojai 8 pm \$10 adv, \$15 at door 646.8907		Masterpiece Series Concert New West Symphony Oxnard Performing Arts Center 8 pm \$18–\$83 1.800.newwest	15 sat It’s Thyme Master Chorale Arts Explosion Event City Hall Atrium 12–2 pm free 653.6100	Mourning the Good Doctor Tour Presented by Cultural Affairs Division 1–3 pm \$12 658.4726	Masterpiece Series Concert New West Symphony Countrywide Performing Arts Center, Thousand Oaks 8 pm \$18–\$83

october cont'd

16 sun	Make Your Own Animal Print Book Family Time Ventura County Museum of History & Art 12-3 pm Free 653.0323	Grupo Sol Y Mur Fall at the Harbor Concert Series Ventura Harbor Village 1-4 pm Free 642.8538	20 thu	Gold Rush—Theatreworks USA Performances To Grow On Scherr Forum Theatre 10 am and noon \$12, \$8 646.8907		Through October 23 Ojai Film Festival Various Ojai Locations 10:30 am-10:30 pm \$8 640.1947	Arts Education Advocacy Collaborative Educational Service Center for VUSD 3:30-5 pm 641.5000 X 1550	Talk About Your Work Workshop for Artists City Hall 6-9 pm \$35 658.4726
22 sat	Benefit Concert for Bell Arts Factory Youth Programs Church of Religious Science 7 pm \$25 643.1960	Olivas Abohe Ghost Hunt Presented by Cultural Affairs Division Olivas Abohe 7-9 pm \$12 658.4726		28 fri	The Ghosts of Ventura Cultural Affairs Division 7-9 pm & 9:30-11:30 pm \$20 658.4726	29 sat	Best of High School Art Arts Explosion event Bell Arts Factory 12-4 pm free 653.6100	Masked Marvels and Wondertales Performances To Grow On Scherr Forum Theatre, Thousand Oaks 7 pm \$14-\$18 646.8907
29 sat	Dia de Los Muertos Celebration for Grown-Ups Fundraiser Ventura County Museum of History & Art 5-8 pm \$25 gen, \$20 members	30 sun	Dia de Los Muertos Family Celebration Ventura County Museum of History & Art 12-3 pm Free 653.0323 ext. 10	Unkle Monkey Fall at the Harbor Concert Series Ventura Harbor Village 1-4 pm Free 642.8538	An Afternoon of Art and Wine Soprotimist Int'l of Ventura Pierpont Inn 1-4 pm \$10 652.1200	The Ghosts of Ventura w/Richard Senate Cultural Affairs Division 7-9 pm \$20 658.4726	31 mon	The Ghosts of the Olivas Abohe w/Richard Senate Cultural Affairs Division 1 1/2 hr. tours: 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm, 9:30 pm, 11:30 pm \$20 658.4726

november

1 tue	Tuesday Talk with Richard Franklin Focus on the Masters The Bridge 7-8:30 pm \$10, \$5 sr./student, members free 653.2501	4 fri	Through November 6 Ventura Architecture Weekend The San Buenaventura Conservancy Fri. 5-9 pm, Sat. & Sun. 11 am-4 pm \$20-\$100 648.2075	5 sat	Papermaking with Recycled Materials Workshop Ventura Co. Museum of History & Art 1-4 pm Free	Harvest Artwalk Presented by Cultural Affairs Division Downtown Cultural District 3-9 pm Free 658.4760		Blues Concert Ventura Music Festival Serra Center 8 pm \$35 648.3146 www.cmf.org	
6 sun	Also Nov. 6, 13, 20, 27 and Dec. 4, 11, 18 Get Into The Holidays Concert Series Ventura Harbor Village 1-4 pm Free 642.8538	12 sat	Art for Life Tour Presented by Cultural Affairs Division 11-12:30 pm \$12 658.4726	Monoprint Workshop & Lithography Demonstration Ventura County Museum of History & Art 3-7 pm Free 653.0323		13 sun	Coffhouse Concert Camerata Pacifica Arts Explosion event Tutti's 6-8 pm free 653.6100	14 mon	Toying With Science Performances To Grow On Fred Kavli Theatre, Thousand Oaks 10 am and noon \$12, \$8 for groups 646.8907
18 fri	World of Wonder with Leland Faulkner Performances To Grow On Scherr Forum Theatre, Thousand Oaks 7 pm \$14-\$18 646.8907		19 sat	Infamous "Ma Duncan" Trial Tour presented by Cultural Affairs Division 1-3 pm \$15 658.4726	Truly Fantasticks! Ventura College Opera Arts Explosion City Hall Atrium 2-4 pm free 653.6100	World of Wonder with Leland Faulkner Performances To Grow On Matilija Auditorium, Ojai 7 pm \$10 adv., \$14 at door 646.8907	Also November 20 The Nutcracker Ventura County Ballet Company Oxnard Performing Arts Center 2 pm & 7 pm \$23-\$9 653.2800		
19 sat	Through Nov. 20 Holiday Home Look In Ojai Festival Women's Committee Ojai Valley 10 am-4 pm \$25 advance 646.2094	20 sun	Fabulous Flags: Paint with Stencils Family Time Ventura County Museum of History & Art 12-3 pm Free 653.0323	25 fri	Comedy Pet Theatre Performances To Grow On Scherr Forum Theatre, Thousand Oaks 2-7 pm \$15-\$20 646.8907	28 mon	Charlotte Diamond Performances To Grow On Fred Kavli Theatre, Thousand Oaks 10 am and noon \$12, \$8 for groups 646.8907	29 tue	Charlotte Diamond Performances To Grow On Buena High School 10 am and noon \$12, \$8 for groups 646.8907

december

2 fri	Masterpiece Series Concert New West Symphony Oxnard Performing Arts Center 8 pm \$18-\$83 1.800. New West	3 sat	Masterpiece Series Concert New West Symphony Countrywide Performing Arts Center, Thousand Oaks 8 pm \$18-\$83 1.800. New West		Splendors Gingerbread Open House & Holiday Boutique Ventura Co. Museum of History & Art 2-5 pm \$20, \$15, \$5 653.6715	Through January 3 "Art/Life Magazine 25th Anniversary Celebration" Art Show San Buenaventura Artists' Union Reception: 12/3, 6-9 pm Free 648.4331	Khac Chi, Music of Vietnam Performances To Grow On Matilija Auditorium, Ojai 7:30 pm \$10 adv., \$14 at door 646.8907	
4 sun	Holiday Street Festival Presented by Cultural Affairs Division Downtown Cultural District 10 am-4 pm 654.7830		Through February 19 The Art of Sherry Loehr Ventura Co. Museum of History & Art 4 adult, \$3 sr., \$1 child Members free 653.0323	8 thu	Concert Ventura Unified School District Orchestra Ventura High School 7 pm Free 289.1826 x1264	9 fri	Also December 10 "Tis the Season" Holiday Concert Gold Coast Concert Chorus St. John's Lutheran Church Fri. 8 pm & Sat. 2 pm \$ Donation 483.3911	
10 sat	Starry Night Ventura Music Festival Arts Explosion event Church of Religious Science 7:30-9:30 pm Free 653.6100	15 thu	Arts Education Advocacy Collaborative Ventura Education Partnership Educational Service Center 3:30-5 pm 641.5000	16 fri	Also December 17 Parade Of Lights Festival & Fireworks Ventura Harbor Village 4 pm Free 642.8538		18 sun	Nature Print Holiday Cards Family Time Ventura Co. Museum of History & Art 12-3 pm Free 653.0323