

State of the ARTS

JANUARY - APRIL, 2006

Creative Convergence in the Downtown Cultural District

County Museum of History and Art, break ground in the next 12 months. In addition, the buzz surrounding a number of smaller scale private initiatives has begun to increase as the doors open on the long anticipated Bell Arts Factory and a handful of creative businesses gain a foothold on Laurel and Front Streets.

Since the City of Ventura first officially designated the Downtown Cultural District in 1998, there has been a public

investment of over \$1 million in building up the cultural infrastructure of the district. Projects the City has supported, such as the Laurel Theatre arts incubator, have successfully helped local arts organizations grow and stabilize. Others, such as banners and maps, have helped to market the district by creating a sense of identity and cohesion. Still others, such as Arts Explosion, have brought free and low cost cultural programs to local families and visitors. This public outlay to the arts has helped encourage private investment in the creative sector. Suddenly, concentrated clusters of creative energy are converging on the downtown cultural district and the community is reaping the benefits.

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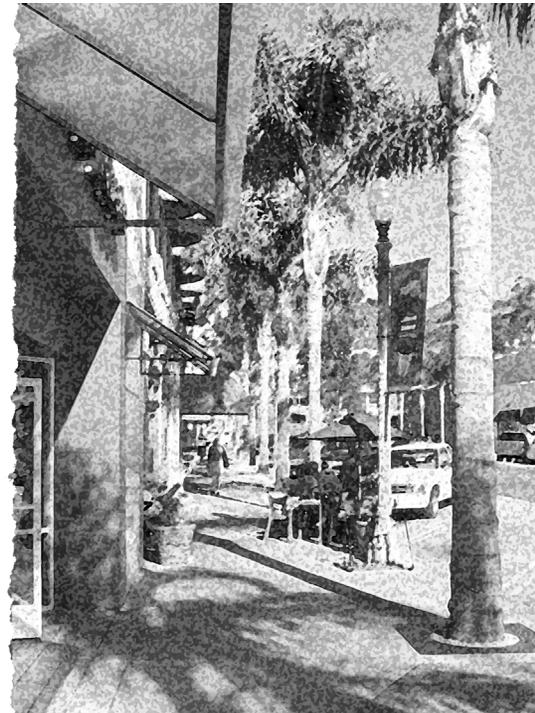
New Tours

Media and Arts Mixer

Music Festival

"Art is My Business"
Workshop

Any visitor to the Downtown Ventura Cultural District will tell you that there has been a noticeable burst of activity over the past year in the 15-block stretch bordered by Hemlock Street on the east and Ventura Avenue on the west. Storefronts continue to be renovated, hundreds of housing units are in the planning stages, new restaurants keep popping up and the breadth of cultural offerings continues to grow. The hum of construction equipment will soon be getting louder as several key projects, including the expansion of the Ventura



WAV: Two Issues One Bold Solution

In fall of 2003 the City began discussion with the Minneapolis based non-profit developers Artspace to build an artist live-work project in Ventura. This past fall the Ventura City Council took action to purchase the last parcel of land needed to complete



the future site for Working Artists Ventura (WAV) (photo simulation above), a new mixed used development designed to provide permanently affordable rental units as live/work space for artists and their families, as well as a home to the Daybreak Living Center, a transitional living facility to house individuals working to transition from homelessness. The development will be located along Thompson Boulevard, between Ventura Avenue and Garden Street.

Besides providing 54 permanently affordable live/work units, 8 market rate condominiums and a 15,000 square foot Transitional Living Center (TLC), this multi faceted project will combine retail space, publicly accessible gallery/exhibition space, and an open-air amphitheater for gatherings and performances.

Artspace is partnering with Ventura based Project Understanding on this unique project that addresses two of Ventura's most pressing concerns; affordable housing and homelessness. Philosophically, by merging the TLC and Artspace projects, the City hopes to alleviate some of the stigma associated with a stand-alone TLC facility. The goal for future development in the Downtown, as outlined in planning documents, is to integrate socio-economic groups, not to isolate them. By inserting the TLC into the heart of a vibrant and diverse cultural community, opportunities for modeling and mentorship will naturally evolve. Many artists in Ventura have a long history of working with organizations such as the Turning Point Foundation. These partnerships have allowed both groups a greater understanding of one another's separate and related challenges and have created relationships that can continue when WAV is completed in 2007.

"Now that the building site has been secured we need to finish raising the money," says Chris Velasco, Vice President of New Development for Artspace. The WAV project is dependent upon a number of state and federal funding sources. In addition to these funding sources Artspace is launching a local fundraising campaign with a \$1.5 million goal. In November 2005 this campaign got a strong start with an "Artists' Salon" themed reception and silent auction that raised over \$30,000.

Laurel Street Creative Cluster

On the opposite end of the Cultural District from WAV, in the historically light industrial area nestled between Thompson Boulevard and the train tracks, there is an increasingly artistic area where businesses that thrive on the creative workforce are gaining a foothold. So many creative businesses and galleries have located here that local businesses and artists are starting to endearingly call the area "LoHo," or the Laurel/Front Street Art Quarter.

Some of the relatively new businesses tucked in between auto repair shops and boat showrooms include two galleries, Connexions Dance Studio, several architecture and design companies and a surf

shop where designer Steve Walden showcases his hand-shaped boards—all of this located within a two to three block area.

Artist Sandra McCullough happened upon the location for the Sea Breeze Gallery, at 255 South Laurel Street (photos below), in 2004 and has recently expanded the initial build of 5 studios to 14 affordable artists working studios. Sandra, who came to Ventura from Santa Fe, has now grown to understand the neighborhood and she says "it's the cooperative spirit and the 'we' concept that makes this area unique." Upon entering Sea Breeze visitors experience a sense of warmth exuding from



Sandra and the artists working there. In addition to the individual studio space there is a gallery, an on-site framer and common space where poetry readings regularly take place.

A few doors down at 267 South Laurel, the Upfront Gallery, open now for two years, is the brainchild of Carolyn Friend. With the goal of showing interesting and challenging contemporary work, the gallery has gained an ever expanding reputation. Since its initiation Upfront has exhibited significant regional artists including Michael Salerno. Paul Benevidez, a recent City of Ventura Artist Fellowship recipient, has his studio in the back of the gallery. He is currently working on a project (see photo below of Paul in the conceptual phase) to be exhibited in conjunction with the Ventura Music Festival in May called *Song of the Temponaut*—an interactive human scale sculpture with electronic sound that will evoke a feeling of stepping into space.



At first glance you might miss some of the other neighborhood artistic "treasurers" such as glass artist Bob Eyberg, who maintains a studio in a small out of the way industrial building on Front Street. Nearby, Stewart + Brown clothing designers, whose owners Karen Stewart and Howard Brown, named two of the 'Coolest People Now' by *Outside Magazine*, don't even have a sign on their door. Their wholesale clothing company designs organic cotton and Mongolian cashmere clothing and sells to retailers in New York City and Los Angeles.

Additional establishments include the Antique Stove Shop and Gallery, on the corner of Laurel and Thompson, another creative business whose works have been featured in *HGTV Magazine*, *Builder Architect* and the *LA Times*. A short walk away is the

headquarters for Petunia Pickle Bottom, designer and manufacturer of chic diaper bags sold in over 800 specialty boutiques. And around the corner is IO Intermedia, a multi-media design company.

Bell Arts Factory Opening Early 2006

When the former tenants let him know a little over a year ago that they were going out of business, Josh Addison saw an opportunity to do something very innovative with the old family-owned mattress factory located on the west end of the Cultural District.

The resulting Bell Arts Factory project is no ordinary renovation. Where once stood piles of mattresses, there will be studios for 35 artists and a large open meeting space for non-profit programs and events.

"This is the largest adaptive re-use project I've done," says Josh. "The impetus for this was in several parts. The first piece was just trying to understand what the needs were in this part of Ventura. There was a lack of affordable working space for artists—from small to large studios—at a rate they could afford. That was one piece. The other was what the community needed for common space."

The renovations will provide for both. The 2,500-square-foot common space, visible from the street through the original glass windows, will be leased to a non-profit entity for visual, performing and movement arts, community meetings and other activities. Artist studios, the for-profit side of the renovation, are already rented, and the tenants are a varied group, from visual artists, photographers, muralists, and a mosaic artist, to a dance group.



Studio room dividers have clear Plexiglas panels that let in the light from new skylights. The building will take advantage of passive cooling measures, and the studios have new ventilators and skylights in the ceilings. Old wooden mattress storage racks have been recycled as partitions and trim. There's a new electrical system, and an underground "clarifier" or filter that captures sediments before wastewater enters the city sewer. A kiln will be added out back for common use. Even an old house on the property will be "recycled" into office space and a studio or two.

Bell Arts Factory Executive Director Susan Scott will spearhead the non-profit programs that will grow in the common space named after Josh's grandmother. Several community groups, from the Westside Boys and Girls Club to the Rubicon Theatre, are interested in collaborating on programs, she says, and the Westside Community Council will maintain office space in the building.

"As soon as the space is ready, an after-school and Saturday arts program for youth will begin, involving 15 to 20 artist/teachers," Susan says. "The City will also offer some arts classes here. We're seeking funding for art programs for middle and high school kids. And we will provide an ongoing exhibit space for the kids' art in the common area, as well as wall areas available for more traditional exhibitions. One of our aims is to increase both the visibility and viability of area artists." Susan is now busy writing grants and recruiting volunteers.

And that old mattress factory that is about to become a catalyst for all sorts of wonderful activities? Imagine programs that combine artist studio tours with demonstrations for students, and ballet performances that dovetail with tenant interests. "Where else can kids go and participate in a creative experience of a caliber this will provide?" Josh asks.

On the Horizon: A Cultural Village

All of the creative energy growing throughout the Cultural District has rapidly propelled forward the long held community dream for a mid-size multidisciplinary arts facility. The planned Cultural Village, in its current form, has been conceived as a site to include a 600-seat theater, arts education classrooms, a gallery and smaller black box theater (watercolor rendering by Kathy McGuire seen below).



Since 2000, the non-profit organization San Buenaventura Foundation for the Arts (SBFA) has partnered with the City to work towards the goal of building a cultural center, and this past year some important milestones were met in its development. In 2004 the City Council designated several Redevelopment Agency owned parcels, located on Santa Clara Street off the Mission Paseo site at Figueroa Street, for the project. Over the next two to three years, SBFA will be kicking off the initial fundraising campaign, which will include exploring possible private/public partnerships with local developers.

In every corner of the Downtown Ventura Cultural District new and exciting creative enterprises—both public and private, for profit and nonprofit—grow stronger. All of this activity seems to be much more than a coincidence. It appears that the cultural community's investment and dedication over the past 10 years is helping Ventura steadily fulfill its dream of becoming the new art city.

Letter

from the Cultural Affairs Division Manager,
Kerry Adams Hapner



As we enter the year 2006, each of us considers our goals for the coming year. During this period of forethought and reflection, the Cultural Affairs Division will embark upon the goals outlined in the *2005 Ventura Cultural Plan: Creating California's New Art City*. The plan evolved from an 18 month long process in which a broad range of citizens and a 50 member steering committee crystallized their vision. The vision cannot be achieved without the participation of our community.

Ventura as California's New Art City? A lofty notion? Yes. But as steps are taken to fulfill each of the goals and strategies outlined in the plan, we are realizing this future as a thriving arts destination on the west coast. However, this plan is not a plan for the "City" as a government agency to complete alone. It is a plan for Ventura, as a community, to achieve.

Over the past year, important steps called for in the Plan were taken by the City in concert with community partners:

- City Council adoption of the 2005 Cultural Plan
- A location was secured for WAV, Artspace Ventura
- Arts Education Collaborative, an arts education advocacy group was formed
- The Inaugural Mayor's Arts Awards were held
- The San Buenaventura Foundation for the Arts' (SBFA) website, www.venturaarts.org, became the primary and inclusive source for calendar listings for cultural events

Key strategies for the community to create California's new art city over the next year include:

- Supporting the progressive steps towards the development of a downtown Cultural Arts Village
- Expanding cultural programming, especially in the downtown cultural district
- Nurturing the work of Arts Education Collaborative to bring arts education back into the schools
- Promoting the preservation of historic resources
- Retaining artists through the creation of affordable artist live/work space
- Increasing the size of the Cultural Affairs Commission to broaden community participation
- Creating an access and cultural equity advocacy community group
- Securing a dedicated public funding stream for the arts
- Fostering opportunities for arts organizations and artists to convene
- Broadening outreach and marketing delivery systems

How do you see yourself or your organization playing a role in these shared goals? We invite you to be a part of the effort to fulfill our community's vision to create Ventura as California's New Art City, weaving the arts and culture into every day life.

To receive your copy of the *2005 Ventura Cultural Plan: Creating California's New Art City*, contact the Cultural Affairs Division or download it at www.cityofventura.net.

Insights

Interviews with Karen Hall

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

Cheryl Ann Thomas ceramic sculptor



What are some essential qualities for an artist?

Honesty and passion.

What building in Ventura resonates most with you?

It is not a building but the lack of such—Cemetery Park.

What music is the most sensual to you?

I love Brahms' German Requiem.

Dada or Deco?

Definitely Dada.

What are your goals for 2006?

I want to continue to go deeper into my artistic search.

How do you feel about changes in your life?

There have been many changes in my life this year both high and low. Breast cancer is a new challenge for me, but it has been balanced by new and exciting opportunities to exhibit my work. Both my life and my work deal with finding the beauty in unexpected turns and twists.

Burns Taft



artistic director, Master Chorale of Ventura County

What are some essential qualities for an artist?

Curiosity. Determination. Not being driven by monetary rewards.

Who is a favorite local artist?

Hiroko Yoshimoto.

What are you most proud of in your life?

My family. My students.

What is your most embarrassing moment?

When I fell into the Pacific Ocean, out of a restaurant, during a dinner in Hawaii.

What music is the most sensual to you?

The music I'm performing now. A well-made piece is always the most emotional.

Messiaen or Mozart?

Who can choose? Between the crystalline structures of the mystical, or the mystery of the classicist? It's all music.

What are your goals for 2006?

Perhaps I'm finally finding my own voice. That would be a life long dream come true. Also, to continue the fight: Never let the bastards get you down!

Ana Galindo



**flamenco dancer/
choreographer and
director of the Pacific Action
Dance Theatre**

Who is a favorite local artist?

Michael Racine. He is a custom jeweler with a shop in the Livery. He is sociable and enjoys life, but his art comes first. He inspires a lot of other artists to keep it together. He is gifted and creative in many areas, including sculpture, painting, and dance.

How do you see your role in Ventura's renaissance as California's New Art City?

My role is to continue being a dedicated master teacher in the dance arts. You must fertilize your pupils with "duende" power, which means the magical essence of flamenco. This is called "bravura" in ballet. I teach my students how to mesmerize their audiences with their dance.

What is your most embarrassing moment?

One of my most embarrassing moments occurred

when my family and I went to meet a famous booking agent in the Hometown Buffet in Los Gatos. We were dressed to the nines with full make-up including lashes so on. My five-year-old grandson all of a sudden zipped off my eyelashes and put them on our mashed potatoes and called out so loud that the whole restaurant could hear, "Look Granny, it's Mrs. Potato Head!"

What building in Ventura resonates most with you?

It is a toss up between City Hall and the Livery. The acoustics at City Hall were flawless one day, so I started snapping my fingers and tapping my feet. The echoes were fantastic. However, the Livery has to be my all time favorite. There, I can dance anytime. The architecture is flawless. That is why so many creative people have been successful there. I love the way that modern music echoes off those ancient walls and floors, it's so inspiring and eerie. That's why I love the Livery.

What are your goals for 2006?

To be on the board helping to develop the first annual Buena Ventura Fiesta in downtown Ventura, near the Mission, full of cultural dances and music. I'd like to have a farmer's market at the same time so people can eat and enjoy the day. The event should continue into the evening. It would great to have booths, and parades for kids and make this a family event.

How do you feel about changes in your life?

I love tradition and embrace change. It's kind of like wearing an old comfortable t-shirt, and still listening to the latest innovative music. I'm not afraid of change, in fact, I'm pretty flexible.

Creating the Connections

American Indian Museum Plans to Reopen

Creating the Connections is an occasional feature about individuals and organizations making connections with the community "outside the box" of traditional cultural institutions.

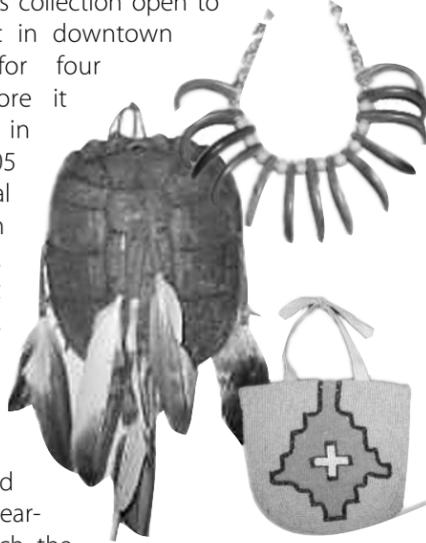
With a little luck, the Trail of the Buffalo American Indian Museum founded by Edmund Tepper may reopen in Ventura in early 2006 as part of the new storefront office of the Brokenrope Foundation. The non-profit was founded last year as an intertribal corporation serving Native Americans in Ventura, to provide cultural and social services, including jobs, education, housing and health services.

"We are asking for donations and community help," says Carol Anderson, the foundation's board secretary, who currently operates out of Lockwood Valley. "Mr. Tepper is about to turn 90 years old and his collection currently sits in his garage. As a Lakota Sioux Elder he possesses a wealth of information to share with the community. It is important to give his collection a home that is open to the public while he is still alive."

"There are a lot of people in Ventura County who are Native Americans, have Native American ancestry or are interested in Native American culture, but currently there is no meeting place for them in the west end of Ventura County," she continues. "Creating the new center and space inside it for the museum will make this a wonderful learning experience for our community and everybody can be a part of this service."

Edmund Tepper, whose Lakota name is A Khi Ko'Ka, is a former Lockheed Aircraft Corp. engineer, artist/illustrator and WWII veteran, who amassed his intertribal collection while providing education about American Indian heritage to the government, schools and Hollywood movie producers. The collection contains books, reference materials and artifacts that date from 1100, an Apache wedding cape and items gifted to him from movie Westerns made in the last century.

He kept his collection open to the public in downtown Ventura for four years before it closed in June 2005 for financial and health reasons. Blind, but very alert, Mr. Tepper still makes medicine sticks and bags and guest appearances, which the foundation hopes to capture on video and archive to make available to the public.



"The Brokenrope Foundation is interested in the well being of the entire Native American community, which is defined by the federal government as all the indigenous peoples of North American, plus Pacific Islanders and Aleuts," says Carol. "There are about 25,000 Native Americans in Ventura County and we hope to help provide them assistance in employment (including establishing a trucking company), overcoming barriers (legal and parole) and medical services so that an Indian health services mobile clinic van can visit Ventura from Santa Barbara once per week."

For information please contact the Brokenrope Foundation 805.653.0317 or www.brokenropefoundation.com. Foundation secretary Carol Anderson can be reached directly at 661.245.2824 or brokenrope2@yahoo.com.

Cultural Affairs Appointments

Denise Sindelar, Public and Visual Art Supervisor

The Cultural Affairs Division is proud to announce the promotion of Denise Sindelar (seen at right) to the position of Public and Visual Art Supervisor. Since joining the Cultural Affairs Division in early 2004, she has effectively managed numerous public art projects and initiatives including the Thille Park, Montalvo Park, conservation and Artspace projects. Prior to coming to the City of Ventura, Denise was the co-owner of Natalie's Fine Threads and director of the Upstairs Gallery, known for its engaging and progressive exhibitions. She also served on the Public Art Commission for six years, bring-



ing a thoughtful citizen's voice to the conversation of public art. Denise will bring to her position a commitment to the arts and the community of Ventura, skilled project management experience, integrity, and the leadership to foster the growth of Ventura's civic art programs.

Denise says, "I have found working first as a volunteer, then commissioner and eventually as staff in the City's Public Art Program to be a very fulfilling experience. As I move into this new position I plan to focus on the program's vision of incorporating artworks, both through temporary and permanent installations, throughout the City."

As Public and Visual Art Supervisor, Denise will oversee the Public Art Program, Municipal Art Acquisition Program, and, among other areas, the ArtWalk Program. She will serve as the staff liaison to the Public Art Commission and Municipal Art Acquisition Committee, city council advisory groups. Please welcome Denise into her new position. She can be reached at (805) 658-4793 or at dsindelar@ci.ventura.ca.us.

Municipal Art Collection Expands

On February 2, 2006 from 6 to 8 pm the Public Art Program will welcome 11 new artists into the Municipal Art Collection with a reception in the second floor gallery and foyer of City Hall. Since 1999 the Municipal Art Collection has grown to showcase 59 artists and over 70 works by individuals who reside in or have made a direct contribution to the history of art in Ventura County.

Annually, a sub-committee of the Public Art Commission forms to review and recommend new acquisitions to the commission. In 2005 fifteen new works were acquired, representing diverse styles and mediums. *Intrusive Idea*, a work in graphite on paper by Santa Paula artist Parmlee Gomez, *End of the Rainbow*, an award winning work by longtime Ventura ceramist Hanna Lore Hombordy (seen at right) and Ventura College instructor Debra McKillop's mixed media work *Migration #8* have all added a decidedly contemporary twist to the expanded collection.



Three new works created in glass will also join the collection. *Glacial Melt*, a piece from Helle Scharling-Todd's *Erosion Series*, involves several layers of laminated glass sculpted through the use of a technique similar to sandblasting, leaving a strangely rough yet sophisticated quality, with the color of these layered glass pieces evoking deep water or ice. Teal Rowe's fluid work of hand-sculpted glass appears as if splashing water has suddenly been frozen in time. These two works will be on display with the 2005 inaugural Mayor's Arts Award created by Bob Eyberg, a kiln fired glass and wire sculpture entitled *Medicine Bag*.

Painters Dorothy Hunter and Richard Phelps' respective paintings *Mojave* and *Big Blue* provide beautiful contrasting abstract landscapes. Hunter is usually referred to as an abstract artist but considers her work abstract expressionism. Her imagery stems from places she has seen or music she has heard. A native East Coaster, she has shown in galleries from Miami to Montreal. She has been active in the local

culturalcalendar

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

january

ongoing	<p>Every Sunday Open Mike Poetry The Underground 3367 Telegraph Rd. 5–8 pm 2nd Sundays— Ventura SLAM 101 Free</p>	<p>Every Monday Gotta Folk Dance Haverim Folkdance Group Washington School 7:30–9:30 pm 643.2886</p>	<p>Every Tuesday Open Mike Poetry with Music Selah Café 40 Day Rd 6:30–10 pm Free 207.5949</p>	<p>Every Tuesday Open Mike Poetry Artists' Union Gallery 330 S California St. 7:30 pm Free 320.3524</p>	<p>Second and fourth Wednesdays Poetry Workshop 7–9 pm Barnes & Noble, Ventura</p>	<p>Third Wednesdays Ventura County Writers Club joylam@aol.com</p>
1 sun	<p>Through January 16 Small Image Show Ventura Harbor Village 644.2750 harborvillagegallery.com</p>	<p>Through February 20 Paintings By Sherry Loehr Ventura County Museum of History & Art Tues–Sun, 10 am–5 pm \$4 adult, \$3 sr, \$1 child 653.0323</p> 	<p>Ma Duncan Crime Investigation Presented by Cultural Affairs Division 12 pm \$15 658.4726</p>	5 thu	<p>The Written Word First Thursday of every month 83 S. Palm St. 7:30 pm Free 641.2872</p>	
7 sat	<p>Al Simmons Performances To Grow On Scherr Forum Theatre 7 pm \$14 kids, \$18 adults 646.8907</p> 	<p>Latte 101 First Saturdays 5722 Telegraph Rd. 8 pm Open mike poetry with music Free 658.2677</p>	9 mon	<p>The Odyssey Performances To Grow On 10 am Fred Kavli Theatre \$10, \$12 646.8907</p>	10 tue	<p>Through May 7 George Stuart Historical Figures: Renaissance and Reformation in Europe, 1400–1600 Ventura County Museum of History & Art Tues–Sun, 10 am–5 pm</p> 
13 fri	<p>New West Symphony Concert Elizabeth Pitcairn, violin Andrew Duckles, viola Oxnard Performing Arts Center 8 pm \$18–\$83 1.800.New West</p>	<p>14 sat Through March 18 Celebration: The Chinese New Year, The Year of the Dog Studio Channel Is. Art Ctr. Reception: 1/14, 4–6 pm CSUCI, Camarillo Free 383.1368</p> 	<p>New West Symphony Concert Elizabeth Pitcairn, violin Andrew Duckles, viola Thousand Oaks Performing Arts Center 8 pm \$18–\$83 1.800.New West</p> 	<p>History & Mysteries Of City Hall Presented by Cultural Affairs Division City Hall 7 pm \$30 658.4726</p>		
14 sat	<p>Antique Natural History Prints Ventura County Museum of History & Art 2–4 pm \$4 adult, \$3 sr, \$1 child Members free 653.0323</p>	<p>15 sun Family Time: Mayan Inspirations Ventura County Museum of History & Art 1:30–3 pm Free 653.0323</p> 	18 wed	<p>Through January 20 Auditions Master Chorale of Ventura County Children's Choir 1–5 pm Free 983.0913 for appt.</p>	19 thu	<p>Spoken Word Salon Third Thursdays Zoey's Café 7:30 pm Free www.zoeyscafe.com</p>
21 sat	<p>Spa-Hopping Adventure Presented by Cultural Affairs Division Downtown 1 pm \$25 658.4726</p>	<p>27 fri Mozart Matters Master Chorale of Ventura County Ventura College 8 pm \$10/\$15 654.0995</p>	28 sat	<p>Ghost Bus Tour Presented by Cultural Affairs Division 7 pm & 9:30 pm \$25 658.4726</p>	<p>Gallery Talk with Exhibiting Artist Sherry Loehr Ventura County Museum of History & Art 2 pm Free 653.0323</p>	<p>David Dominguez & Chris Buckley Arcade Poetry Series Carnegie Art Museum 7 pm 483.1905</p>

february

1 wed	<p>Through February 5 Shirley Valentine (Encore Run) Rubicon Theatre Company performance times vary \$25–49 667.2900 www.rubicontheatre.org</p>	<p>2 thu Municipal Art Collection Reception Presented by Cultural Affairs Division Ventura City Hall 6–8 pm Free 658.4793</p> 	<p>Through February 5 New-Experimental- Cutting Edge Workshop Thousand Oaks Art Association 9 am–3 pm \$130–\$150 526.9978</p>	4 sat	<p>Ventura Then and Now: A Photographic Bus Tour Presented by Cultural Affairs Division 1 pm \$15 658.4726</p>	<p>Ventura County: A Birder's Paradise Ventura County Museum of History & Art 2 pm \$4 adult, \$3 sr, \$1 child 653.0323</p>
7 tue	<p>Tuesday Talk Focus on the Masters The Bridge 7–8:30 pm \$10/\$5, members free 653.2501</p>	<p>9 thu Through March 5 Josh Kornbluth's Ben Franklin: Unplugged Rubicon Theatre Co. performance times vary \$25–\$49 667.2900</p> 	<p>11 sat Drawing from the Collection: Workshop in Pencil and Pastel Ventura County Museum of History & Art 1–4 pm \$10 gen, \$5 members</p>	<p>Walk Back Through Time Presented by Cultural Affairs Division Downtown Ventura 1:30–3:30 pm \$15 658.4726</p> 		
13 mon	<p>Rainbow Fish Performances To Grow On 10 am Ocean View Pavillion, Port Hueneme \$8–\$12 646.8907</p>	<p>18 sat Land of the Grasshopper Song Dell Arte Theatre Co. Performances To Grow On 10 am, noon and 7 pm Scherr Forum Theatre, Thousand Oaks \$8–\$18 646.8907</p> 	<p>Also February 25 Art is My Business: Making Definitive Plans to Reach Your Artistic Goals Cultural Affairs Division Ventura City Hall 10:30 am–5:30 pm \$235 677.3911</p>	<p>Avenue Renaissance Tour Presented by Cultural Affairs Division 11 am–1:30 pm \$30 658.4726</p>	<p>Doris Vernon & Florence Weinberger Arcade Poetry Series 7 pm Carnegie Art Museum Oxnard 483.1905</p>	
19 sun	<p>Family Time: Paper Butterflies Ventura County Museum of History & Art 1:30–3 pm Free 653.0323</p>	<p>25 sat Guitar Center Young Artists Concert New West Symphony Concert Countrywide Performing Arts Center 7:30 pm \$12–\$30 1.800.New West</p> 	<p>Erle Stanley Gardner's Ventura Presented by Cultural Affairs Division 1–3 pm \$15 658.4726</p>	26 sun	<p>Guitar Center Young Artists Concert New West Symphony Oxnard Performing Arts 3 pm \$12–\$30 1.800.New West</p>	<p>Jason Robert Brown in Concert Rubicon Theatre Company 7 pm \$50 & \$75 667.2900</p>

march

2 thu	The Written Word 1st Thursdays The Lab 83 S. Palm St. 7:30-9:30 pm Free 641.2872	3 fri	Through May 29 Island Passages Ventura County Museum of History & Art Tues-Sun, 10 am-5 pm Reception: 3/3, 5-7 pm \$4, adult, \$3 sr, \$1 child 653.0323		4 sat	Latte 101 Open mike poetry with music First Saturdays 5722 Telegraph Rd. 8 pm Free 658.2677	7 tue	Tuesday Talk Focus on the Masters The Bridge 7-8:30 pm \$10/\$5, members free 653.2501 FocusOnTheMasters.com
10 fri		New West Symphony Concert with Marc-André Hamelin, piano Oxnard Performing Arts Center 8 pm \$18-\$83 1.800.New West	11 sat	New West Symphony Concert w/Marc-André Hamelin Countrywide Performing Arts Center 8 pm \$18-\$83 1.800.New West	Sunjata Performances To Grow On 7 pm Scherr Forum Theatre \$14 kids, \$18 adults 646.8907	Ventura Book Festival Unitarian Universalist Church Of Ventura 10 am-4 pm Free 643.3385	14 tue	Dream Catchers Performances To Grow On 10 and noon Fred Kavli Theatre \$8-\$12 646.8907
16 thu	Spoken Word Salon Third Thursdays Zoey's Café 7:30 pm Free www.zoeyscafe.com	Through April 9 One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest Rubicon Theatre Co. performance times vary \$25-\$49 667.2900		17 fri	Forever Free Theatreworks USA Performances To Grow On Oceanview Pavilion, Port Hueneme 10 am \$8-\$12 646.8907	Through April 1 Ojai One-Act Play Festival The Ojai Art Center Theater dates & times vary 646-1399	19 sun	Requiem by Kenneth Helms Master Chorale of Ventura County 3 pm Scherr Forum, Thousand Oaks \$20 654.0995
19 sun	Family Time: Arts & Crafts for the Whole Family Ventura County Museum of History & Art 1:30-3 pm Free 653.0323	25 sat	Group Art Sale by Island Passages Exhibition Artists Ventura County Museum of History & Art 5-8 pm \$20 member, \$25 public 653.0323	Amy Uyematsu and Elnora McNaughton Arcade Poetry Series Carnegie Art Museum, Oxnard 7 pm 483.1905	31 fri	Also April 1, 2, 6, 7, 8, 9 Cabaret Ventura College Opera & Musical Theatre Thurs, Fri, Sat 8 pm; Sun 2 pm Ventura College Theatre Call for prices 653-0454		

april

1 sat	Latte 101 Open mike poetry with music First Saturdays 5722 Telegraph Rd. 8 pm 658.2677 Free	Through April 29 Student and Faculty Exhibition Studio Channel Islands Art Center Reception: April 1, 4-6 pm CSUCI, Camarillo Free 383.1368	4 tue	Heartland/Nanette Brody Dance Theatre Performances To Grow On 10 and noon Fred Kavli Theatre, Thousand Oaks \$8-\$12 646.8907		Tuesday Talk Focus on the Masters The Bridge 7-8:30 pm \$10/\$5, members free 653.2501 FocusOnTheMasters.com			
6 thu	The Written Word 1st Thursdays The Lab 83 S. Palm St. 7:30-9:30 pm Free 641.2872	7 fri		New West Symphony Concert Arnaldo Cohen, piano Oxnard Performing Arts Center 8 pm \$18-\$83 1.800.New West	8 sat		Cottontail Day Presented by Cultural Affairs Division 10 am-2 pm Plaza Park, Downtown Ventura Cultural District Free 654.7830	New West Symphony Concert Countrywide Performing Arts Center Thousand Oaks 8 pm \$18-\$83 1.800.New West	
11 tue	Through May 6 Folktales of the Absurd Photos by Lis Schwitters Paintings by Hilda Kilpatrick The Upstairs Gallery Natalie's Eclectibles 643.8854	20 thu	Spoken Word Salon Third Thursdays Zoey's Café 7:30 pm Free www.zoeyscafe.com	22 sat	Ventura Music Festival Dinner Gala "Festival Instruments" Auction 5:30 pm Ventura Beach Marriott Hotel 648.3146	23 sun	Through May 21 De Colores Art Show & Festival Festival: April 23 California Oil Museum, Santa Paula Free DeColoresArtGroup.org	27 thu	Through May 21 All in the Timing Rubicon Theatre Company performance times vary \$25-\$49 667.2900
29 sat		Charlotte's Web Theatreworks USA Performances To Grow On Scherr Forum Theatre, T.O. 7 pm \$14 kids, \$18 adults 646.8907	Spring ArtWalk Presented by Cultural Affairs Division Downtown Cultural District 3-9 pm Free 658.4760		Also April 30 Snow White & the Seven Dwarfs Ventura County Ballet Co. Oxnard Performing Arts Ctr. Sat 7 pm, Sun 2 pm \$23, \$17, \$12, \$9 653.2800 or 486.2424	30 sun	Art Stars Awards Ventura County Arts Council Camarillo Ranch House 3-6 pm \$75 advance \$85 at door 658.2213		

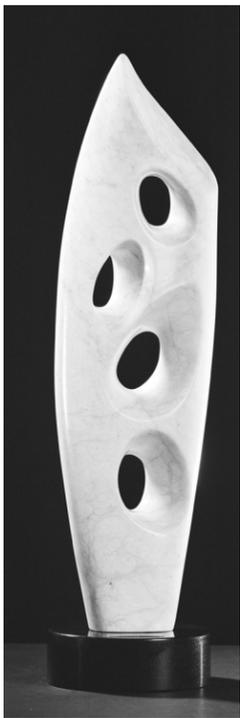
2006 Ventura Music Festival events— for tickets or information, visit www.venturamusicfestival.org or call 805.648.3146

may 5	may 5 & 12	may 6	may 7	may 9	may 10	may 11	may 12	may 13	may 14
Trio Solisti with David Krakauer, clarinet	Festival Brass Quintet Tea & Trumpets	Cho-Liang Lin, piano with André-Michel Schub, violin	Michael Leroy Jazz Quartet at the Olivas Adobe	Chu-Fang Huang, piano	Rising Stars in recital with interviews	Manuel Barrueco, guitar virtuoso	Branford Marsalis and his quartet	Festival Orchestra with Jennifer Koh, violin	Alexander String Quartet

For an up to date calendar of cultural events visit www.venturaart.org
sponsored by the San Buenaventura Foundation for the Arts.

Ventura art scene since her arrival in 1984. In contrast, Richard Phelps, a former resident and instructor at Ventura College, now resides in Tennessee. Retiring in 1996 after 28 years of teaching, Phelps spends his time working in his barn/studio on an acre with a view of the Smokey Mountains. Both artists have had lengthy and distinguished careers leading them to and from Ventura.

During his 37-year tenure at Ventura College, sculptor Ellis Jump served as mentor to many young artists. His philosophical approach to aesthetic expression is based on close scrutiny of undisturbed stone. In carving, he allows the material to dictate the form. His work *Ketichican* (seen right) resulted from a salmon fishing trip to Alaska. While visiting this area he was inspired by the presence of the Pacific Northwest totems. Fellow instructor Bill McEnroe, retired from Ventura College in 1982 after a 32-year teaching career, will be represented in the Municipal Art Collection with his pastel rendering *Old Money*. This work depicts a stately dowager complete with gloves and pearls. This expressionistic work reveals a thoughtful consideration of the subject by the artist.



Ojai artist Chloe Murdock's work *Walking the Dog* was previously selected to serve as the image for the 2001 Harvest Artwalk poster, and now is a permanent piece in the City's collection. Tom McMillin's *Channel Island Series* are unusual mixed media works consisting of plexiglas and magnetite, representing aerial views of 4 of the nearby Channel Islands chain and surrounding ocean currents. A licensed sea captain for the past 50 years, and a retired Professor of Art at CSUN, McMillin is highly influenced by his surrounding environment. His work over the past 40 years has dealt with natural phenomena and the systems intrinsic in nature. These works, along with all other recently acquired pieces, will be installed and available for view in January of 2006. Questions regarding the collection can be addressed to Denise Sindelar, 805.658.4793 or dsindelara@ci.ventura.ca.us.

Spring Artwalk

Featured artist

Spring ArtWalk 2006 posters will feature a mixed media oil painting assemblage on constructed wood titled *High Priestess Paying Attention* by artist Dianne Bennett. Dianne's work was selected through an open competition that was juried by a panel of arts professionals and downtown merchants. The public will have the opportunity to meet Dianne and see her work at the Bell Arts Factory, 432 N. Ventura Avenue in the Downtown Ventura Cultural District during the ArtWalk on Saturday, April 29, 1-9 pm.



Dianne will be available to sign posters from 3-5 pm during the event.

Dianne, an Ojai resident, creates art that celebrates the natural world and the timeless nature of everyday occurrences. Folk-like images of birds, insects, trees and other iconographic subjects inhabit her art, which is intuitively narrated with layers of random scribbles, sampled text, handwritten musings and archetypal graphics. Her work is assembled, constructed and painted on metal, wood and other collected materials. The result is art that references devotional objects and decorative, popular art forms that cross cultural traditions.

During Spring ArtWalk over 150 Ventura County artists exhibit work at more than 70 fun and funky downtown locations. In addition live performances and activities take place in public venues throughout the Cultural District. Artists interested in participating in the Spring ArtWalk can download and fill out an application from www.venturaartwalk.org and submit it by Wednesday, February 1.

Whether you're an artist or an active Ventura ArtWalk patron, you can now become a Friend of the ArtWalk. As a Friend of the ArtWalk you can enjoy discounts to downtown's most popular restaurants and shops throughout the year, attend exclusive artist talks, find out first about upcoming cultural events, receive a signed poster and get a Friend of the ArtWalk t-shirt. Dues will go toward event enhancements. For specific discounts and membership fees go to the ArtWalk website www.venturaartwalk.org. For more information, contact Robin Elander at 805.658.4760 or relander@ci.ventura.ca.us.

Cottontail Day

Springtime Celebration

The public is invited to enjoy a day in the park at Ventura's Cottontail Day as the Downtown Ventura Cultural District's Plaza Park turns into a colorful spring playground. This annual children's event is free to the public and offers a variety of activities for all ages on Saturday, April 8 from 10 am to 2 pm.

The highlight of Cottontail Day is the free Egg Hunt for children ages 2 to 7 beginning at 10 am. The last



hunt will take place at 1:30 pm or until supplies run out. The hunts are broken down by age groups and will take place every 15 minutes. Free tickets for a designated hunt area and time will be distributed from the central information booth starting at 9:30 am. Children are encouraged to bring their own basket for the egg hunt. Each participant will be given a goody bag of toys and surprises while supplies last.

Throughout the day the Springtime Bunny will greet children in the park and will be joined by a surprise character to take photos with the children. A non-profit organization will be offering parents the opportunity to purchase a digital photo taken with the Springtime Bunny. Along with the characters, other entertainment will include music, magicians, dance and more local performers.

For the second year at Cottontail Day arts & crafts, fine arts and non-profit booths will be included. Food and drink carts will also be set up at Plaza Park and surrounding downtown restaurants will be open for sit down dining. Pony and train rides, jolly jumps and more activities will be offered for a nominal fee. In addition, many organizations will host hands on craft activity booths for children.

Cottontail Day began 14 years ago at Arroyo Verde Park as a small community event. In 2004 the event was moved to the Downtown Cultural District at Plaza Park. Today the event attracts over 3,000 participants from throughout the county. Community Memorial Hospital is the presenting sponsor this year. Vendors interested in selling handmade items are being sought for the craft fair. Please contact Michelle Godoy at 805.654.7749 or mgodoy@ci.ventura.ca.us for more information.

A Creative New Year

through Arts Education

If you are looking for creative ways for you and your family to stay active through the winter months, the Barranca Vista Center arts education program has some affordable new alternatives. Many of the new offerings have been especially created for young adults drawn to the glamour of the theater, both in the limelight and behind the scenes.

The Sharks and Jets dance again in a theater class created just for stage struck teens. *Overture* is a musical theater dance experience where students will have the privilege of creating a full dance number to Stephen Sondheim and Leonard Bernstein's *Westside Story* overture. This class is the brainchild of actress/dancer Stefoni Burgi who is currently an instructor with the Blanche Reynolds open classroom program. Stefoni has spent the past two summers choreographing the Rubicon Theatre Summer Youth Productions of *Honk Jr.* and *Suessical the Musical*. "Musical theater performing gives actors/dancers the opportunity to experience many styles of theatre dance techniques," Stefoni states. This class will focus on theatrical expression through movement and characterization that will be choreographed into the musical theater overture. A final performance will be open to the community.

Not interested in the spotlight? Angel Jones, licensed make-up artist, costumer and owner of Wenches and Warriors costume annex, has two offerings for those teens and adults who would rather be the stars back-stage. In *Theatre Make-up* students will explore hands-on the application of make-up for age, street and character looks. Each student will have his or her own "kit" to create with. Would you rather pick up a needle instead of a powder brush? *Theater Costume Construction* is for you. Learn costuming construction tricks and techniques.

Other classes of note are an adult Evening Sculpting class with renowned sculptor Susan Kaufman, an afternoon art class for youth to introduce them to Matisse to Max: the Masters of Color. And keep in mind that the spring prom season will be upon us faster than you realize. *Swing to the Prom* is an affordable \$28 to get your feet ready for the dance floor. If you are interested in these programs please call 805.644.6542 for more information, or better yet log on to the web site at cityofventura.net and link to eRecreation to register. All of the above classes are held at the Barranca Vista Center, 7050 Ralston Street in Ventura.

Discover Ventura

Some Things Old and Some Things New

Ventura's long established historic tour program has a new moniker. As of January, locals and tourists alike can enjoy stepping out on Saturdays with "Discover Ventura" tours.

But don't worry! Tours will continue to travel down familiar trails, while beginning to venture off the beaten path. Eleven sold-out tours on Halloween week-

end testified to the popularity of Richard Senate's (i n) f a m o u s ghost tours. We are delighted that Richard, after moving away, is returning to Ventura permanently. Next year, he has agreed



to continue leading folkloric, historical and spooky tours around the city. He will guide two ghost bus tours in January, and an Erle Stanley Gardner (Perry Mason author) Mystery tour in February.

Ventura's Historic Preservation Committee chair, Tracy Long offers new insights on the familiar "Walk Back Through Time" tour of the downtown historical district. And long-time Ventura resident, and professional photographer, Stephen "Schaf" Schafer will share his photographic expertise on a new bus tour highlighting buildings from his *2006 Ventura Then and Now* Calendar.

Discover Ventura tours also offer a taste of other fascinating and fun aspects of our fair city throughout January and February. New tours explore the local art scene, Craftsman architecture, the renaissance on the Ventura Avenue, and even a few downtown spas.

In keeping with the latest trends in culinary tourism, many of the tours include "appe-teasers" or a full lunch. Participants can enjoy the Craftsman Architecture Tour with or without lunch at the lovely Pierpont Inn, and the Spa-hopping adventure ends with a Spa cooking (and tasting) demonstration at Tutti's Restaurant. A formal "Victorian Tea" worthy of a royal visit completes the Victorian Tour, with a prize given for the best hat worn during the tour!

For information, please call 805.658.4728. Register for tours at www.cityofventura.net and link to eRecreation or call 805.658.4726. Tickets are also available through the Visitors and Convention Bureau at 805.648.2150.

Building Buzz & Biz

A Cultural Exchange between Media & the Arts

The City of Ventura Cultural Affairs Division, Ventura County Arts Council and the Ventura Visitors & Convention Bureau are the proud sponsors of an exciting New Year's "mixer" between regional media representatives and Ventura County's arts community on Thursday, February 9, 2006 from 2:30 to 5:30 pm at City Hall, 501 Poli Street, in Ventura.

Ventura County's artists rely on the media to provide a first rate forum for the exchange and promotion of

cultural ideas, news and information in our communities. And communities increasingly recognize that a successful arts scene is an important economic driver that supports many other area businesses.

We invite area artists, arts administrators and members of local organizations to attend and participate in a panel discussion between media and arts experts on the challenges of providing the coverage or "buzz" that help make cultural activities (the "biz") succeed.

After the panel, media reps will exchange ideas in small round table group sessions with local artists and arts organizations in a 5-10 minute "speed dating" format.

This informal panel and roundtable symposium is an ideal opportunity for the entire community to meet their regional representatives from the media, and provide them with information about their organizations. It is also the media's chance to provide feedback to arts representatives on the best activities to cover, deadlines, editorial guidelines, press release formats, etc.

Afterwards a party mixer at J's Tapas bar, 204 E. Main St., caps the afternoon, from 5:30-7 pm. We hope all artists, arts organizations and media reps will join us!

Please contact Alice Atkinson at 805.677.3911 or aatkinson@ci.ventura.ca.us by January 31, 2006 if you are able to attend this networking event.

Ventura Music Festival 2006

Stories in Music

Just as an image may evoke a thousand words, so our favorite composers often invite the listener to picture a scene, think upon a story or remember a mood—some even helpfully supply a "program" or suggestive narrative, like Moussorgsky for his *Pictures at an Exhibition*, Dukas for the *Sorcerer's Apprentice*, and Beethoven for the *Pastoral Symphony*.

For its 2006 season, the Ventura Music Festival has invited performers of international acclaim to tell dramatic tales we know and love through music. Each evening or "Chapter" will feature a narrator—Ventura Music Festival Artistic Director Nuvi Mehta or a special guest—to "tell the story," for instance the poems on which Vivaldi based *The Seasons*, letters by Mozart, a Russian fairy tale for Stravinsky's *Firebird* or scenes from Shakespeare's *The Tempest* so we can better hear the waves—and ships!—crash during Moravec's *Tempest Fantasy*. Get ready for great "Stories in Music" retold by musicians from the classic and jazz genres during the Festival's run from May 4 to May 14.

Remember last year's "Festival Violins," brilliantly painted by Ventura's best artists? This year our local artists create "Festival Instruments," three-dimensional art objects inspired by musical instruments. Like their predecessors, the "Festival Instruments" will be unveiled at a special event and then exhibited in several venues in the County. On April 22, they will be auctioned off live at the Festival's main fundraising dinner, to be held at the Ventura Beach Marriott Hotel.

Here are some Festival highlights—

CHAPTER ONE (May 5): Trio Solisti and clarinetist David Krakauer perform Paul Moravec's 2004 Pulitzer Prize winning *Tempest Fantasy* and Mussorgsky's *Pictures at an Exhibition*.



CHAPTER TWO (May 6): pianist Cho-Liang Lin and violinist André-Michel Schub play an all-Mozart program to celebrate the composer's 250th birthday.

CHAPTER THREE (May 7): Picnic and dance to the Michael Leroy Jazz Quartet in the Olivas Adobe Courtyard at 2 pm (tickets: \$30).

CHAPTER FOUR (May 9): Chinese Pianist Chu-Fang Huang (23), winner of the 2005 Cleveland International Piano Competition, performs works inspired by French and Russian stories by Debussy, Ravel and Stravinsky.

CHAPTER FIVE (May 10): Rising Stars in Recital. Artistic Director Nuvi Mehta interviews each of our new and returning young musicians.

CHAPTER SIX (May 11): Manuel Barrueco, guitar virtuoso, presents a thrilling program of Bach, Piazzola, Turina and Albeniz.

CHAPTER SEVEN (May 12): Grammy winning saxophonist Branford Marsalis and his quartet tell the jazz stories of America.

CHAPTER EIGHT (May 13):

The Festival Orchestra with Nuvi Mehta, conductor, and violinist Jennifer Koh, 1994 Tchaikovsky Competition winner, present *An Evening of Favorites* including Vivaldi's *The Seasons* and Dvorak's *Serenade*.



CHAPTER NINE (May 14): The Alexander String Quartet presents a Mother's Day Concert & Brunch

PROLOG & EPILOG (May 5 & 12): The Festival Brass Quintet Tea & Trumpets I & II —brilliant sounds with English High Tea.

For tickets (free to \$55) and information contact 805.648.3146 or www.venturamusicfestival.org.

Art is My Business

Reaching Your Artistic Goals

Are you a visual artist set on achieving success in your career this year? On February 18 and 25, the Cultural Affairs Division will be presenting, *Art is My Business*, an intensive, two-day workshop for visual artists who are serious about learning to effectively promote their art and want to implement a tactical plan for realizing their artistic career goals. Led by Ashley McLean Emenegger (pictured right), *Art is My Business* includes individual and group exercises, a two-part portfolio review, and hands-on instruction. Ashley is returning to Ventura after having led a highly popular session at the June 2005 *Leading the Way* Conference co-sponsored by the City of Ventura and the Ventura County Arts Council.



Offered on consecutive Saturdays, Ashley will use her engaging and energetic style to present the business skills necessary to advance participants' careers. Each artist will be guided through the creation and implementation of a step-by-step plan to reach their career objectives. Advice on how to approach galleries and arts institutions will also be presented. Each participant will receive a binder of materials that will reinforce the instructional information.

The two-day course, offering over 14 hours of instruction, is \$235 with a \$15 materials fee paid directly to the instructor. The class will take place at Ventura City Hall Community Room. Lunch is included both days. Please contact Alice Atkinson at 805.677.3911 or aatkinson@ci.ventura.ca.us for more information.

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To receive information and mailings on our upcoming events, call 805.677.3911. If you received this newsletter in the mail, you don't need to call—you're on the list!

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, this document is available in alternate formats by calling 805.658.4755 or 805.654.7788(TDD).

Visit our website: www.cityofventura.net



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