



Dear Community Member,

On behalf of the City of Ventura and the City Council, thank you for joining me in celebrating the accomplishments of the six outstanding honorees for the sixth annual Mayor's Arts Awards. I am pleased to have the opportunity to recognize the artistic achievements and contributions to the cultural community by these city residents, artists, educators, and business leaders. Nominations for the awards were solicited from the public and reviewed by a selection panel who made the final recommendations to me.

Through the Mayor's Arts Awards initiative, the city aims to cultivate greater visibility and understanding of the value of the arts, as well as provide an opportunity to develop new leadership and create new patrons for the arts. It has grown into a highly visible tradition in the community that will continue to evolve for years to come.

Like all our events and programming, these awards have been produced in partnership with local organizations, artists and businesses. We are very pleased to have the Museum of Ventura County as our host and thank them for their involvement. I also wish to thank artist Lis J. Schwitters whose graphic art work, Mark of Excellence, has become the signature design for the event and the award.

The leadership exhibited by these honorees is only a sampling of the talent and dedication of our citizenry. Ventura is fortunate to have a vibrant and active arts community of individuals, organizations and businesses leading the way. Now more than ever, the arts exemplify the heart and soul of Ventura.

Sincerely,

Bill Fulton
Mayor, City of Ventura

2010 Mayor's Arts Awards Selection Committee

Eileen Riddle, Chair, Cultural Affairs Commission

Doug Green, nonprofit consultant

2010 Mayor's Arts Award Nominees

Helen Yunker *Mary Gailbrath* *Karen Brown*
Jack Halbert *John White* *Donna Lynn Caskey*
Margaret Travers *Lorenzo DeStefano* *Bob Moskowitz*
Maribel Hernandez *Cole Smothers* *Chris Jay*
Suzanne Lawrence (posthumously)
Steve and Polly Hoganson, Zoey's Café
Sylvia White, Sylvia White Gallery
Michelle and Christine Burke, Caffrodite
Brett William Jordan, Bwilliam Design
Mark Hartley, Fitzgerald Hartley

2009 Recipients

Albert & Micheline Sakharoff *Michele Chapin*
Arts Patron Artist in the Community
Chris Velasco *Patricia Strickland* *Veronica Valadez*
Arts Leader Arts Educator Emerging Artist

2008 Recipients

Affinity Bank *Phil Taggart*
Arts Patron Artist in the Community
Moses Mora *Kathleen Noblin* *Jennifer Livia*
Arts Leader Arts Educator Emerging Artist

2007 Recipients

Josh Addison *Paul Lindhard*
Arts Patron Artist in the Community
Linda Ottsen *Carlisle Cooper* *Brian McDonald*
Arts Leader Arts Educator Emerging Artist

2006 Recipients

Sandra and Jordan Laby *Gerd Koch*
Arts Leaders Artist in the Community
Clarissa Boeriu *Ventura Visitors & Convention Bureau*
Arts Educator Special Initiative

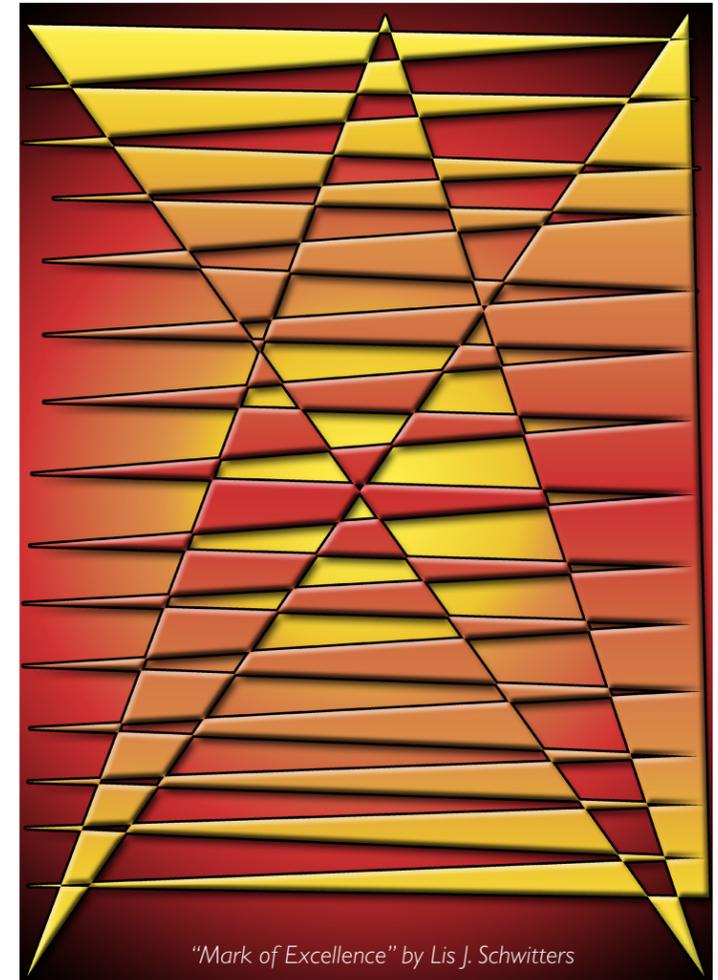
2005 Recipients

Lee Hodges *MB Hanrahan*
Arts Leader Artist in the Community
Focus on the Masters *Michel "Michellino" Petersen*
Arts Educator Special Initiative



A collaboration of Community Development and
Parks, Recreation and Community Partnerships Departments

Mayor's Arts Awards



"Mark of Excellence" by Lis J. Schwitters

2010

Honoree Reception

November 18, 2010

6:00 – 8:30 pm

The Museum of Ventura County

100 E. Main Street

Downtown Ventura Cultural District

**Thank you to the Museum of Ventura County,
Mark Hartley, the Wine Rack and Seasons Catering**

Welcome

Elena Brokaw, Director
Parks, Recreation and Community Partnerships Department

Mayor's Address

Mayor Bill Fulton

Presentation of Awards

Eileen Riddle, Chair
Cultural Affairs Commission

Michael Falconer, Chair
Public Art Commission

Jeffrey Lambert, Director
Community Development Department

Eric Wallner, Creative Economy Specialist
Community Development Department

Denise Sindelar, Manager of Community Partnerships
Parks, Recreation and Community Partnerships Department

Entertainment

The Midnight Band

2010 Honorees

Arts Patron

Helen Yunker

Nominated by Cynthia Loughman, Helen Yunker is a well-known local fixture in the community for her generous financial and volunteer support of the arts. Examples of her generosity are as abundant as her giving. "The Helen Yunker Performance Hall" at the Rubicon Theatre was named in honor of her donation that helped pay for their new home on Main and Laurel. In 2007, Helen made the largest individual gift to the Ventura College Foundation to support their music department in addition to many years of support for their Opera and Musical Theater program. She is also an active board member and patron of the Ventura County Ballet Company and has sponsored numerous scholarships for art students. A successful realtor and devoted community activist, Helen understands the importance of the arts for Ventura through her own love of music. An accomplished singer, Helen has performed for most of her life as a member in the Our Lady of Assumption Church choir and the Belles of San Buenaventura. Said co-nominator Camille Harris, "Helen Yunker's whole life is a testimony to the importance of supporting the arts. She demonstrates for us all the importance of giving."

Artist in the Community

Jack Halbert

Nominated by Virginia Beale, Jack Halbert is an accomplished visual artist of much acclaim. Originally from Michigan, he studied at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Cranbrook Academy of Art and the Center for Creative Studies in Detroit. For many years he owned his own graphic design and advertising company before venturing out as a painter. His work has won numerous awards including top honors at the Ventura County Fair and the prestigious "Barney Dietz Best in Show" award at Ventura College where his paintings are part of the permanent collection. He is an active arts leader working with the Ventura College Friends of the Arts, the Ventura College Foundation scholarship fund, and as a past president of the Buenaventura Art Association. Working with the staff of Wright Library, Jack helped create the children's art contest "Carry the Card" and recently exhibited his work at E.P. Foster Library. He has donated art to the Ventura Music Festival on several occasions and encourages younger artists to become active members of their professional community. Noted arts instructor Carlisle Cooper, "Jack is really an energetic and enthusiastic part of our Ventura arts scene."

Creative Entrepreneur

Sylvia White, Sylvia White Gallery

Nominated by Community Partnership Marketing Specialist Richard Newsham, Sylvia White is the owner of the prestigious Sylvia White Gallery and the consulting firm, Contemporary Artists Services. Described as an "artist guru, creative business leader and social network creator", Sylvia has worked with hundreds of artists both locally and around the globe. In May 2008, Sylvia moved to Ventura from Santa Monica, rescued a nondescript midtown storefront and turned it into a major arts destination with ever changing exhibitions of museum quality visual artists such as Ed Moses and William Wiley, monthly performances and special community events. Alongside her husband, respected performance artist and retired professor John White, Sylvia has quickly ingratiated herself into the arts community and become one of Ventura's biggest advocates on the national art scene. The gallery offers exhibition opportunities for local artists by hosting an annual National Juried Arts Show each summer that awards a solo exhibition to the winner. This past Valentine's Day, the gallery's "Be A Saint" event raised \$6,000 given directly to artists through an "Art Advance" lottery drawing. Two seasons of "5 by 5" performance series (5 artists, 5 minutes) during First Fridays has provided 40 performance artists a regular venue and a growing audience. Her "Art Advice" workshops give artists the tools to achieve their career goals. At considerable personal and financial risk, Sylvia White defines "Creative Entrepreneur" and has brought significant economic and social benefit to the City.

Arts Leader

Margaret Travers

Nominated by Cultural Affairs Supervisor Georgeanne Lees, Margaret Travers has served as the Executive Director of the Ventura County Arts Council for many years. A dedicated and eloquent voice for the arts throughout Ventura County, Margaret also serves on numerous nonprofit arts boards including the Arts Council of the Conejo Valley and the Thousand Oaks Arts Commission. Her tireless advocacy for the arts, both locally and in Sacramento, has had a successful impact as she has brokered partnerships with the City of Ventura,

Focus on the Masters, Ventura Visitors & Convention Bureau, Ventura County Community Foundation, the California Arts Council, among many others.

Under Margaret's leadership, the Ventura County Arts Council operates under a mandate to develop unique programs such as their Artists in the Community Partnership grants, which places an individual artist into a non-arts community agency to address local community needs. Their Artist Residency in the County Juvenile Facility employs 7 artists/teachers who provide 11 per week of art classes while the Artists-in-the-Classroom Mini-Grant program funds arts programs in all disciplines in countywide elementary schools. In partnership with Focus on the Masters, Margaret works tirelessly to raise funds for graduating high school visual artists to continue their studies and oversees an annual schedule of art exhibitions at the County Government Center. Her warmth, humor and quiet fortitude make Margaret a beloved and admired friend to all the artists and organizations she serves.

Arts Educator

Bob Moskowitz

Nominated by Dr. Gwendolyn Lewis Huddleston, Bob Moskowitz has worked as an artist and art instructor at Ventura College since 1998. Among his many accomplishments, he has been named a master by Focus on the Masters, spearheaded student exhibitions for the Ventura ArtWalk, and organized the highly successful Art Auction at Ventura College to raise funds for art scholarships. His contributions to curriculum development have resulted in increased transferable courses to feeder universities. Otis College of Art and Design recently honored the art program at Ventura College as Southern California's best and Bob as Art Teacher of the Year. He has a reputation for establishing a high bar for aesthetics, inspiring his students to do their best work. Said Dr. Huddleston, "Bob's enthusiasm alone is enough to encourage budding artists to go to their studio, try their hand at art making, and seek within themselves the stories and artistic visions that will enhance their lives and communities."

Emerging Artist

Chris Jay

Nominated by Nick Hartley, Chris Jay has been a cornerstone of the local music community for over a decade. Originally from New Jersey, Chris moved to Ventura immediately out of high school. As the frontman and founder of the band Army of Freshmen, he has toured the world playing over 1,000 shows in 11 counties and 43 states. He has written for the VC Reporter for over a decade, concentrating on local music. He has been the first to write about virtually every band, artist and venue to come out of Ventura. A successful songwriter and producer, Chris recently produced Delaney Gibson's new CD. Hailed as one of the "friendliest, most accessible" persons in town, he works tirelessly to promote the local music scene through events like the End of Summer Blast at Spencer Makenzie's, which showcased over 20 local acts.

