



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 eighth 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,

Mike Tracy
Mayor, City of Ventura

2012 Mayor's Arts Awards Selection Committee

Kevin Clerici, Executive Director, Downtown Ventura Partners

Mary Perez, Program Director, Vita Art Center
and 2011 Mayor's Arts Award recipient

Mary Anne Irving, Cultural Affairs Commissioner

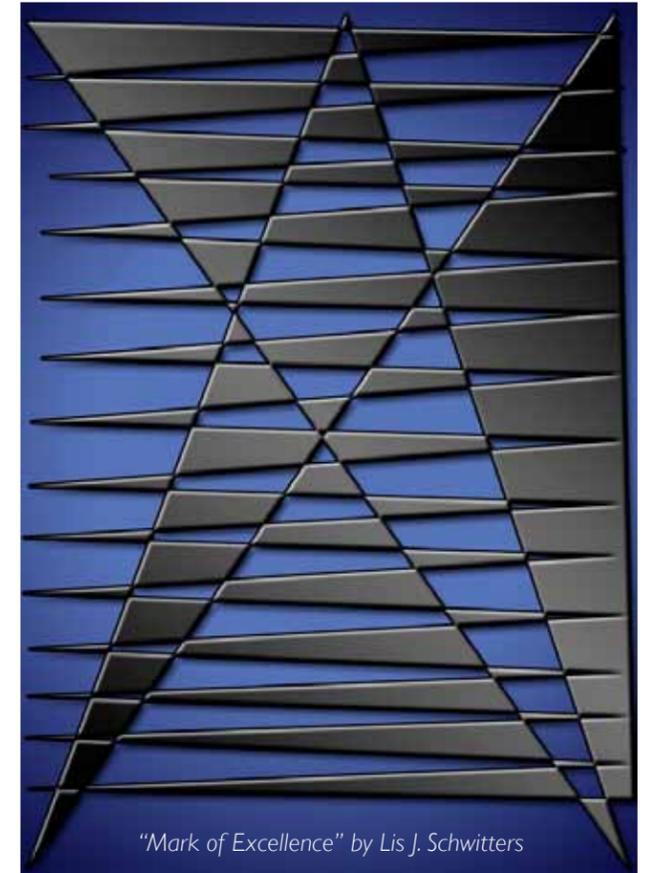
2012 Mayor's Arts Award Nominees

Pam Cohen *Lorenzo Destefano* *Christina Diaz*
Debbie Fox *Lisbet Frey & Tim Beyer (Green Art People)*
Katrina Maksimuk *Barbara Meister* *Stephen Schafer*
Johanna Spinks *Ed Summers* *John White*

Past Mayor's Arts Awards Recipients

2011	<i>Tim Schiffer</i> Arts Leader	<i>Steve & Polly Hoganson</i> Creative Entrepreneur	<i>Mary Perez</i> Arts Educator
	<i>Ann Deal</i> Arts Patron	<i>Susan Cook</i> Artist in the Community	<i>Maribel Hernandez</i> Emerging Artist
2010	<i>Helen Yunker</i> Arts Patron	<i>Sylvia White, Sylvia White Gallery</i> Creative Entrepreneur	<i>Jack Halbert</i> Artist in the Community
	<i>Margaret Travers</i> Arts Leader	<i>Bob Moskowitz</i> Arts Educator	<i>Chris Jay</i> Emerging Artist
2009	<i>Albert & Micheline Sakharoff</i> Arts Patron	<i>Michele Chapin</i> Artist in the Community	
	<i>Chris Velasco</i> Arts Leader	<i>Patricia Strickland</i> Arts Educator	<i>Veronica Valadez</i> Emerging Artist
2008	<i>Affinity Bank</i> Arts Patron	<i>Phil Taggart</i> Artist in the Community	
	<i>Moses Mora</i> Arts Leader	<i>Kathleen Noblin</i> Arts Educator	<i>Jennifer Livia</i> Emerging Artist
2007	<i>Josh Addison</i> Arts Patron	<i>Paul Lindhard</i> Artist in the Community	
	<i>Linda Ottsen</i> Arts Leader	<i>Carlisle Cooper</i> Arts Educator	<i>Brian McDonald</i> Emerging Artist
2006	<i>Sandra and Jordan Laby</i> Arts Leaders	<i>Gerd Koch</i> Artist in the Community	
	<i>Clarissa Boeriu</i> Arts Educator	<i>Ventura Visitors & Convention Bureau</i> Special Initiative	
2005	<i>Lee Hodges</i> Arts Leader	<i>MB Hanrahan</i> Artist in the Community	
	<i>Focus on the Masters</i> Arts Educator	<i>Michel "Michellino" Petersen</i> Special Initiative	

Mayor's Arts Awards



"Mark of Excellence" by Lis J. Schwitters

2012

Honoree Reception

November 15, 2012

7:00 – 9:00 pm

The Museum of Ventura County

100 E. Main Street

Downtown Ventura Cultural District

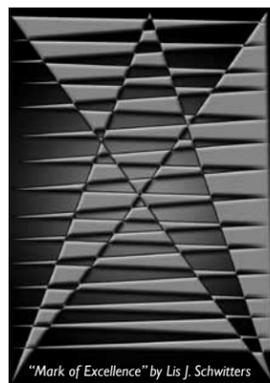
Thank you to our sponsors:



www.cityofventura.net

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





Mayor's Arts Awards

Welcome

Elena Brokaw, Director
Parks, Recreation and Community Partnerships Department

Mayor's Address

Mayor Mike Tracy

Presentation of Awards

Jeffrey Lambert, Director (to Barbara Meister)
Community Development Department

Mary Perez (to Johanna Spinks)
Program Director, Vita Art Center and 2011 Mayor's Arts Award recipient

Peter Brown, Community Services Manager (to Debbie Fox)
Community Development Department

Elena Brokaw, Director (to Lorenzo DeStefano)
Parks, Recreation and Community Partnerships Department

Kathryn Dippong-Lawson, Cultural Affairs Coordinator (to Pam Cohen)
Parks, Recreation and Community Partnerships Department

Eric Wallner, Associate Planner (to Katrina Maksimuk)
Community Development Department

Entertainment

Jon Francis Trio



2012 Honorees

Arts Patron

Barbara Meister

Nominated by Rubicon's Karyl Lynn Burns, Barbara Meister is a self-described, widely recognized "community activist" involved with numerous nonprofits throughout Ventura County. Barbara holds a Master's degree in Elementary Education and taught in the gifted program for the Ventura Unified School District. Since 2005, she has successfully served as the CEO and President of Barber Ford-Volkswagen-Subaru-RV. A Founder of the Rubicon's fundraising auxiliary, The Grandes Dames, she has been involved as a major sponsor of every Rubicon season to date. She has also served on Rubicon's Board of Directors and Executive Committee. Other local arts organizations Barbara supports include the Ventura Music Festival, the Ventura Film Society, New West Symphony, Ventura County Ballet, Museum of Ventura County, Focus on the Masters, and the city's Music Under the Stars series, to name just a few. As Karyl Lynn notes, "Barbara holds the arts in the highest regard and the arts organizations she supports would not be able to serve our community as they do without her generosity and commitment."

Artist in the Community

Johanna Spinks

Nominated by Alfred Lewis, award-winning Ventura portrait artist Johanna Spinks knows faces inside out. For years, she worked as a top Hollywood makeup artist, applying her artistry to many famous faces. After retiring from the industry, she devoted herself full-time to her love of classical portraiture, working mainly in oil on canvas. Her work, which also includes still life and landscape, has won her national acclaim and juried recognition from American Art Magazine, Art Talk, Oil Painters of America and the California Art Club. In January, 2010, Johanna embarked on a yearlong journey to create at least one drawing every day. This project led to her recent creation of 56 portraits of real Venturans from all walks of life. Painted in single, two-hour sittings with no photos, each shorthand sketch was an attempt to not only document the sitter's life story but to expose them to the relevant world of contemporary portraiture. From the proverbial butcher, baker and candlestick maker to the harbor master, police chief, and homegrown movie star, each sketch appeared in the Ventura Breeze accompanied by an article detailing the sitter's story.

Creative Entrepreneur

Debbie Fox, Fox Fine Jewelry

Nominated by Jen Livia, Debbie Fox opened Fox Fine Jewelry with her husband George fifteen years ago. Fox Fine Jewelry combines their unique jewelry designs with a professional art gallery and actively supports Ventura's local community by hosting fundraising events in their store, including events for the Rubicon Theatre, Ventura Music Festival, Focus on the Masters, Museum of Ventura County, Ventura Botanical Gardens, American Cancer Society and many more. Over the years, Debbie has played host to dozens of artists from all different styles and given them the opportunity to show and sell their work. In 2009, Fox Fine Jewelry began giving away necklaces to the unemployed. They donate over one hundred pieces of jewelry annually, with a total of over 900 necklaces to date. Said Jen Livia, "Debbie is always willing to lend a hand when asked to participate and a great person to work with. There isn't another creative entrepreneur that does more for the arts community and strives to exhibit the variety of creative people than Debbie Fox."

Arts Leader

Lorenzo DeStefano

Nominated by Patti Channer, Lorenzo DeStefano has been described as the "driving heart and soul" of the Ventura Film Society. With a mission to "Discover the World Around You", the Film Society is now in its fourth season and has developed into an important organization for local filmmakers. Lorenzo regularly brings in Hollywood directors and actors to meet the community, mentors young filmmakers through Ventura and Oxnard City Corps and Brooks Institute, and started the "Neighborhood Cinema" project to encourage local filmmakers to produce and screen films about the diverse communities of Ventura County. Said supporter Barbara Meister, "Lorenzo has brought unique and high quality films to our community. He has filled a need that was missing for showing a wide variety of alternative films and bringing in filmmakers and guests associated with the productions."

Arts Educator

Pam Cohen

Pam Cohen has been a bedrock of Ventura's dance community for close to 30 years and a dance educator with the City of Ventura for more than 25 years. Nominated by Sharon Taylor, there were an additional eight community members who wrote letters in support of Pam's legacy. Her popular "Slippers 'N Masks" class has taught generations of children the fundamentals of dance in a relaxed, noncompetitive environment. Her Mommy and Me classes have allowed for rich creative interactions between parents and children, encouraging them to take risks, express their feelings and move with confidence. Said parent Eva Etedgui, "Pam's love for the children is evident and her communication skills are respectful and so patient. The devotion and enthusiasm she brings to us and our children in these dance classes is unmatched." Loved by students and parents alike, Pam is now teaching the children of children she taught in the past. While some of Pam's former students have gone on to become professional dancers, all of them have left her class with a life-long understanding and love of dance.

Emerging Artist

Katrina Maksimuk

Nominated by John Wilner, local photographer Katrina Maksimuk uses photography, film and performance to explore what shapes others and herself. A self-described "subculture photojournalist with a digital twist", Katrina has been documenting the many facets of the LGBT community for the past ten years. As one of the first residents of the WAV, Katrina has emerged as a community leader by helping with various events such as First Fridays and the Westside ArtWalk. As a leading member of Ventura County's Drag King troupe, Hir Bois, Katrina regularly performs around the county and has helped the group raise thousands of dollars for Breast Cancer Awareness and HIV/AIDS services. Professionally, through her work with the Ventura County Community Foundation, Katrina has spearheaded projects linking the arts to larger civic issues. Said WAV founder Chris Velasco, "Katrina is an inspiration to others to take personal and professional risks, and an example to all of us in striking a balance between the rigors of creating new work and sustaining one's livelihood."