



Dear Friends of the Arts in Ventura,

Every year, since 2005, through the Mayor's Arts Awards, we honor the best of our arts patrons, leaders and educators, creative entrepreneurs, and emerging and community artists who nurture our vibrant arts community and ensure Ventura's vital cultural life.

On behalf of the City of Ventura and the City Council, I thank you for joining me tonight as we call attention to the marvelous accomplishments of seven outstanding honorees singled out for this ninth annual celebration.

I also offer warm thanks to the panel of leaders from the arts, civic and business communities who convene each year for the difficult task of reviewing so many strong and worthy candidates and of selecting, on my behalf, just one nominee (sometimes more) who sets the most positive example of accomplishments in each of five award categories.

Gratitude also goes to our many partners for tonight's events, especially our host, the Museum of Ventura County, and artist Lis J. Schwitters for designing the "Mark of Excellence" award given each year to every honoree.

These annual awards have become an important tradition cultivating greater visibility and understanding of the value of the arts to the public at large while they showcase the economic impact of Ventura's creative businesses, arts leadership and patrons.

This year's honorees exemplify that San Buenaventura has truly "good fortune" in its active arts community of individuals, organizations and businesses and they show us all how:

Those who love the arts love Ventura.

The Mayor's Arts Awards are one small way to "love them back" for all their contributions, their dedication and their passion to serve the arts AND our community.

Sincerely,

Mike Tracy

Past Mayor's Arts Awards Recipients

2012	Lorenzo DeStefano Arts Leader	Debbie Fox, Fox Fine Jewelry Creative Entrepreneur	Pam Cohen Arts Educator
	Barbara Meister Arts Patron	Johanna Spinks Artist in the Community	Katrina Maksimuk Emerging Artist
2011	Tim Schiffer Arts Leader	Steve & Polly Hoganson Creative Entrepreneur	Mary Perez Arts Educator
	Ann Deal Arts Patron	Susan Cook Artist in the Community	Maribel Hernandez Emerging Artist
2010	Helen Yunker Arts Patron	Sylvia White, Sylvia White Gallery Creative Entrepreneur	Jack Halbert Artist in the Community
	Margaret Travers Arts Leader	Bob Moskowitz Arts Educator	Chris Jay Emerging Artist
2009	Albert & Micheline Sakharoff Arts Patron	Michele Chapin Artist in the Community	
	Chris Velasco Arts Leader	Patricia Strickland Arts Educator	Veronica Valadez Emerging Artist
2008	Affinity Bank Arts Patron	Phil Taggart Artist in the Community	
	Moses Mora Arts Leader	Kathleen Noblin Arts Educator	Jennifer Livia Emerging Artist
2007	Josh Addison Arts Patron	Paul Lindhard Artist in the Community	
	Linda Ottsen Arts Leader	Carlisle Cooper Arts Educator	Brian McDonald Emerging Artist
2006	Sandra and Jordan Laby Arts Leaders	Gerd Koch Artist in the Community	
	Clarissa Boeriu Arts Educator	Ventura Visitors & Convention Bureau Special Initiative	
2005	Lee Hodges Arts Leader	MB Hanrahan Artist in the Community	
	Focus on the Masters Arts Educator	Michel "Michellino" Petersen Special Initiative	

Mayor's Arts Awards



"Mark of Excellence" by Lis J. Schwitters

2013

Honoree Reception

November 21, 2013

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



"Mark of Excellence" by Lis J. Schwitters

Mayor's Arts Awards

Welcome

Elena Brokaw, Director

Parks, Recreation and Community Partnerships Department

Mayor's Address

Mayor Mike Tracy

Presentation of Awards

Entertainment

Jill Martini Soiree

2013 Mayor's Arts Awards Selection Committee

Betsy Chess, Cultural Affairs Commissioner,
Ventura Music Festival Board

Debbie Fox, Owner of Fox Fine Jewelry and Recipient of
Mayor's Arts Award for Creative Entrepreneur in 2012

Jennifer Livia, Public Art Commissioner, and
Recipient of Mayor's Arts Award for Emerging Artist in 2008,
Artist and Owner of Red Brick Gallery

2013 Honorees

Arts Patrons



Sue Pollack, Mary Perez & Kevin Clerici



This trio played key roles in the broad-based and grassroots success of ArtWalk Ventura in 2013 with their infectious display of community spirit, avid promotion of local artists and arts non-profits and uncanny ability to connect unique business partners, such as Patagonia, Ventura Auto Center and Community Memorial Hospital, to this arts event. Sue, Mary and Kevin planned and organized over an entire year, collectively volunteering hundreds of hours, to ensure the vitality of this outstanding, free and all-volunteer annual event that both engages and demonstrates that art and artists are vital to our entire community. Nominated by Ginny Claborn of Habitat for Humanity International.

Artist in the Community



Gerald Zwiers

One of our community's most generous, versatile and creative artists whose work is collected nationally and worldwide, Gerald also generously lends his multi-faceted expertise as arts conservator, exhibitor and organizer to numerous nonprofits, including the Ventura Film Society, Focus on the Masters and California Lutheran University's Regional Figurative Art Symposium. This "Renaissance Man" is a "quiet giant on the frontlines and behind the scenes" who "works diligently in a sincere collaborative effort" to "elevate the community with every project." For his business called Public Art Services, Gerald also regularly installs exhibitions at the Gallery at the Crowne Plaza, Community Memorial Hospital Cancer Center, Ventura City Hall, E.P. Foster Library and Olivas Adobe. Nominated by Donna Granata of Focus on the Masters.

Arts Leader



Todd Collart

A multi-media artist himself, Todd has long served the arts as a strong, imaginative, supportive leader. As a council member (1989-1993) he helped establish Ventura's 2% for the Arts Program and supported many seminal local arts organizations. Currently, he serves as gallery director for the Ventura County Arts

Council (VCAC) Visual Arts Committee, displaying visionary skills in securing a tremendous expansion of public exhibit space for art at the Ventura County Government Center Hall of Administration that now annually showcases over 500 pieces of art by 300 diverse artists. In 2012 he initiated the center's first ever Installation Show by 15 artists filling three levels of interior space and outdoors. He's also inaugurated, with a group of local poet-activists, the VCAC Poet Laureate Program and its Summer Concerts that fund high school music programs. "His encouragement and challenge to artists for creating thought-provoking, innovative art is beyond measure." Nominated by Margaret Travers, Executive Director of the Ventura County Arts Council.



Arts Educator

William Hendricks

This Ventura College professor of photography for 22 years with an unbridled passion for creativity is dedicated to expanding learning opportunities for students beyond the campus, including a global shipboard "Semester at Sea" and the first-ever educational program for a community college in the United States to Cuba, where, since 1993, Bill has made fifty-one trips, bringing U.S. students, filmmakers, artists, dancers, doctors and writers for interdisciplinary coursework and hands-on field experiences. Over the decades his graduates from the Ventura College Photography Program have gone on to excel at Art Center, UCLA Film School, USC, Northridge, Cal Arts, School of Visual Arts in New York and Brooks Institute of Photography and received Fulbright Scholarships and exhibits in Los Angeles, New Orleans and New York. "Bill challenges his students to think critically and be relevant in one's own time." Nominated by Vincenzo DeStefano, Director of the Ventura Film Society.



Emerging Artist

Uriel Leon

This Ventura resident since 2011 is a thriving graphic design and multi media artist whose range—detailed anatomical pieces, handcrafted wood canvases, aerosol portraits and new school graphics—is as diverse as his arts business collaborative. MOMENTUM COLLAB is a collective of five artists who master in art, photography, fine art framing, videography, tattooing, web and graphic design and KJing—or "knowledge mixing" to create interactive internet presentations. Uriel's contributions to the public arts community include projects for Arts Alive, a nonprofit after school arts program, Ventura School District and Ventura Art Walk. Nominated by artist Moses Mora.