



Dear Friends of the Arts in Ventura,

I am delighted to host the Mayor's Arts Awards which have honored leaders, patrons, educators and artists dedicated to nurturing our city's vibrant arts community and vital cultural life since 2005.

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

I also offer warm thanks to the selection panel that convened for the difficult task of reviewing the many strong nominations and of forwarding recommendations to me as mayor and the city's Cultural Affairs Commissioners for our approval.

Gratitude also goes to our many partners for tonight's event, 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 are an important tradition for everyone who loves the arts and Ventura. They cultivate a greater visibility and understanding of the value of the arts to the public at large while showcasing the economic impact of Ventura's creative businesses, arts leadership and patrons.

The Mayor's Arts Awards are one small way to say "well done" and "thank you" to all participants in our creative community—for their contributions, their dedication and their passion to serve the arts AND our city.

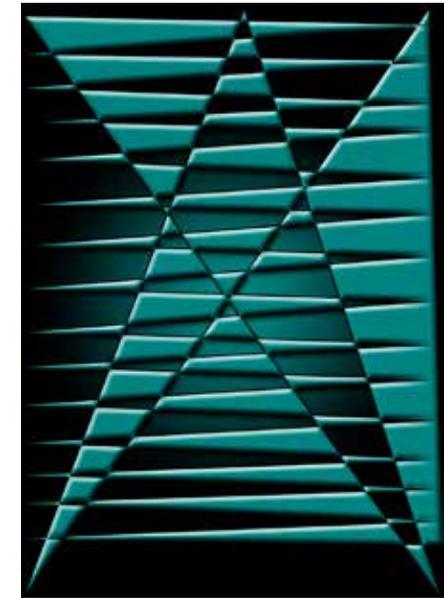
Sincerely,

Cheryl Heitmann

Past Mayor's Arts Awards Recipients

2013	Todd Collart Arts Leader	Gerald Zwiers Artist in the Community	William Hendricks Arts Educator
	Sue Pollack, Mary Perez, Kevin Clerici Arts Patrons		Uriel Leon Emerging Artist
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

2014

Honoree Reception

November 5, 2014

7:00 – 9:00 pm

The Museum of Ventura County

100 East Main Street

Downtown Ventura Cultural District

Thank you to our sponsors:



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



Mayor's Arts Awards

Welcome & Remarks

Cheryl Heitmann, Mayor

Awards Presenters

Eileen Riddle

Cultural Affairs Commission Chair

Barbara Brown

Public Art Commission Chair

Erik Nasarenko

Deputy Mayor

Denise Sindelar

Community Partnerships Manager

Elena Brokaw, Director

Parks, Recreation and Community Partnerships Department

Entertainment

Jill Martini Soiree

Awards Selection Committee

Kathy Asher, Cultural Affairs Commissioner & Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources, VUSD

Mary Perez, VITA Art Center owner & recipient of the Mayor's Arts Award for Arts Patron in 2013

Margaret Travers, Executive Director of the Ventura County Arts Council

2014 Honorees



Arts Patron

Miriam Chase Wille

Described as a "quiet giant" who "stands tall" in support of the Ventura County arts community, this gifted and generous patron, still active in her eighth decade, has remained faithful to her youthful "crush" for music. "I don't want young people to miss out. I want them to have the pleasure of live music in their lives." She has ensured that wish as a major and consistent donor "and player" for the Ventura Music Festival and its children's concerts; the Harmony Project that brings musical instruments, training and education to under-served youth; and the New West Symphony, especially a \$1 million endowment towards the music director's salary, vital in bringing exciting South American conductor Marcelo Lehninger to its podium and new audiences two years ago.



Artist in the Community

Helle Scharling-Todd

This Denmark native is called "mistress of the mosaic" for her four decades plus career of masterful community projects that liven up more than a dozen public spaces in Ventura and countless urban environments beyond with colorful glass, tile and steel murals and sculptures. Her accessible but abstract multi-dimensional design elements come from studies at the Academy of Art in Ravenna, Italy, the Krefeld School (an offshoot of Bauhaus) in Germany and mural masters in Mexico City. She is in demand as a keynote speaker at mosaic symposiums around the world but is also a regular exhibitor at local galleries, BAA board member and leader of countless workshops for all ages.



Arts Leader

Debbie Golden

Ventura Unified School District board trustee, Vice President of VEP or Ventura Education Partnerships and fundraiser-in-chief for its annual "Festival of Talent," this arts leader "does it all" for her teachers and students,

securing countless contributions from private donors and public grants to bring arts education back into VUSD classrooms for our school children. In 2013 she invited Big Bad Voodoo Daddy to Ventura High School for a benefit-for-the-arts concert. For many years she has served on the VEP Arts Collaborative to develop the first VUSD Arts in Education Master Plan, a visionary blueprint but also a step-by-step action plan bringing music, art and literary arts instruction back into elementary schools.



Arts Educator

Miriam Arichea

This piano soloist for CHICO (Channel Islands Chamber Orchestra) is also a "three ring" music director for the VUSD's wildly successful Festival of Talent; for Rubicon Theatre Company's three summer productions for kids; and for her church's children's music programs and bell choirs. She also accompanies Ventura College operas and concertos and is the go-to musician for bringing music, talent and outreach efforts to many special events, school sites and younger audiences. "Miriam is one of the big reasons we have a strong and growing music tradition in Ventura – classical, musical theatre and a range of other genres."



Emerging Artist

Pete Ippel

This boundary-defying multidimensional artist is also a WAV resident, educator and leader who communicates complex ideas through compelling conceptual artworks that provoke dialogue with the viewer. With an MFA from San Francisco Art Institute and BFA from Cornell University, Pete has been active locally and statewide with solo and group exhibitions, lectures, performances and presentations. A successful "high jump" athlete in high school and college, Pete is an agile leaper between idea and object, pixels and patchwork, history and future. He is a true weaver or quilter of the digital realm able to capture "the very breath of thought" in images that combine traditional art media, recycled materials and fiber art techniques redefined for our brave new cyber-world.