

Public invited to eleventh annual Mayor's Arts Awards on November 5



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11/03/2015

For Immediate Release

November 3, 2015

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Ventura Mayor Cheryl Heitmann invites the public to attend the eleventh annual Mayor's Arts Awards on Thursday, November 5, at 7 pm, at the Museum of Ventura County, 100 East Main Street in Ventura. The reception honors 5 of the top leaders, patrons, educators and artists dedicated to nurturing our city's lively arts community and vital cultural life:

- New West Symphony League – Arts Patrons
- Michael O'Kelly – Artist in the Community
- Andrea Landin– Arts Educator
- Anna Rios Bermudez – Arts Leader
- Miranda Mize – Emerging Artist

"These annual awards are an important tradition for everyone who loves the arts and Ventura," said the Mayor. "They cultivate a greater visibility and understanding of the value of the arts to the public at large and 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 our city through the arts."

Music by Jill Martini Soiree and refreshments from Seasons Catering precede presentations by Cultural Affairs Commission Chair Marie Lakin, Public Art Commission Chair Daniel Saltee, Ventura County Arts Council Executive Director Margaret Travers, Ventura Unified School District Board of Education President Debbie Golden and Associate Producer/Director of Education and Outreach for the Rubicon Theatre Company Brian McDonald. Each honoree receives "Mark of Excellence," a special edition work on paper created by artist Lis Schwitters.

The event is presented by the City Manager's Office and the Parks, Recreation and Community Partnerships Department. Reception sponsors include the Museum of Ventura County, Beverlee's, Seasons Catering, and the Ventura High School Regional Occupational Program: Floral Design.

A selection panel (listed below) convened earlier this year to review nominations made by the public and to make recommendations forwarded to the Mayor and the City's Cultural Affairs Commission for their approval: Debbie Golden, Board of Education and Ventura Educational Partnership Board Member, Kathy Asher, Cultural Affairs Commissioner, Retired Assistant Superintendent of VUSD Schools, and Meredith Hart, Downtown Ventura Organization Project Manager.

For more information contact Georgeanne Lees at 805/658-4720 or glees@cityofventura.net.

This release is available on the City of Ventura website www.cityofventura.net. --###--