The eighth annual “The Take a Shot!” digital photography contest received well over 200 online submissions this year capturing from many perspectives the diversity of people and cultures in our community as well as our city’s stunning natural landscapes.

In November judges (professional photographers and community leaders) selected winners from Ventura’s amateur and professional photographers in these six adult categories plus one youth category:

1. Environment — skylines, open spaces, beaches, parks & wildlife
2. Architecture — urban design, cityscapes, landmarks & infrastructure
3. People Portraits — of residents participating in city sponsored events & classes
4. Community Life — education, volunteer, street/nightlife, celebrations, arts & cultural scenes
5. Altered Images — photos manipulated for artistic purposes
6. Photo Voice — images illustrating a community issue or problem

Over 200 members of the public cast their own votes online to select their favorite “People’s Choice” awards. Judges included professional photographers, cultural commissioners, educators and other community leaders.

The contest’s enduring popularity shows it is still a great tool for expressing community pride. All entries are eligible to be featured in citywide publication of print or electronic media with photo credit.

There was also good evidence—from the huge increase in and diversity of online voters this year for the People’s Choice awards—of the new influence of Facebook and Twitter as photographers participating in the contest encouraged their social network “Friends” to vote for them.

2012 Contest
Photographers may enter the 2012 contest starting January 1, 2012 following the guidelines at www.cityofventura.net/photocontest where the public may also view all of the current 2011 entries online.
Environment • People’s Choice
*Ventura Harbor* by Tracy Lee

Environment • Judges’ Choice
*Sunset on Islands* by Robert Garven
Architecture • People's Choice
*Harbor* by Michael Robin Kims

Architecture • Judges' Choice
*Ventura Overpass* by Jim Suley
People Portraits • People’s Choice

Boy at Fair by John Ferritto

People Portraits • Judges’ Choice

Player through the Fence by Jon Osumi
Community Life • People’s Choice
*Hula Festival* by John Whitt

Community Life • Judges’ Choice
*A Night at the Beach* by Jac Keo
Altered Images • People's Choice
Altered Pier by Kathleen Good

Altered Images • Judges' Choice
Bronk Rider at the Fair by John Ferritto
Photo Voice • People’s Choice
Peaceful Pit Puppy by Heidi Elowitch

Photo Voice • Judges’ Choice
Graffiti by Sheldon Brown
Youth • People's & Judges' Choice

**The Point** by Bethany Fankhauser