

PlacerArts FAQ 2008

PlacerArts Celebrates 25th Anniversary

2008 marks PlacerArts' silver anniversary with 25 years public service. What began as a loosely organized group of artists 25 years ago has grown into a county-wide non-profit public benefit organization serving artists, arts organizations, schools and the community with dozens of ongoing programs. PlacerArts partners with regional organizations such as the Roseville Cultural Arts Committee, Lincoln Arts & Culture Foundation, Roseville Arts! and North Tahoe Arts to showcase Placer County's thriving arts scene, along with its culture, heritage and agriculture.

PlacerArts began life 1983 as *Artcetera*, housed in the historic Carnegie Library on Almond Street in Auburn under its first director, Persia Woolley. Larry Luis Ortiz, an established ceramic artist and educator, soon took over the direction and put the organization on the track to being the success it is today. Incorporating as the Arts Council of Placer County in 1983, it soon became a state-local partner to the California Arts Council. Many of the programs developed under Ortiz' leadership are going strong today, including the Auburn Art Walk, celebrating its 15th season in 2008.

Under the direction of Angela Tahti since 1997, the Arts Council of Placer County is now known as PlacerArts, bringing its common name in line with its website, PlacerArts.org. The newsletter has morphed into *Perspectives*, a bi-monthly arts newsmagazine with distribution over 5000.

PlacerArts is housed today in The Arts Building, a high-profile location in downtown Auburn. Innovation continues with the introduction in 2007 of an online artist registry and county-wide events calendar. Tahti and Ortiz, whose ClayArts studio is a popular feature in The Arts Building, continue to share their expertise with affiliates throughout the state. With its all-volunteer Board of Trustees, a seasoned staff and hundreds of volunteers, PlacerArts continues to be a model for rural arts organizations, and has created a lasting legacy in Placer County and beyond.

The Arts Building Gallery

Shawn Silver was named gallery manager in December, 2007. With direction from the recently-formed gallery committee, Shawn is developing an exciting line up of exhibits for the Silver Anniversary year.

2008 opens with *Discovering Form*, pairing the representational imagery and abstract compositions of Nancy Langhorn with Jennifer Johnson's three-dimensional sculptures.

Nancy Langhorn, a resident of Meadow Vista, allows her intuition to guide her use of color and shape as she paints. Her passion for color is manifested in the pure energy of the visual forms, inviting viewers to establish meaning based on their own experience with her large-scale canvases.

Jennifer Johnson is an Auburn artist who creates exciting and distinctive sculptures from found and discarded steel. The sculptures form a powerful and, at times, controversial, expression of personal experience and social stereotypes.

The "Discovering Form" exhibit invites viewers to look beyond the surface to explore the relationship between the abstract forms of Langhorn's paintings and Johnson's figurative sculptures to discover commonality in their use of color and medium.

Upcoming shows include the inaugural "*Outside the Box*", a fundraiser for PlacerArts which will be shown from April 8 to May 29, 2008. Open to any artist, there are two categories: adult 18 and over and youth 17 and under. Adult artists will receive a 12x12" birch box which they will incorporate into a work of art. Youth will use cardboard pizza boxes. The show will culminate with a live auction of the box art on April 26. Box distribution will begin February 1 and 2, with art work due by April 1.

Programs

AGROart™ Competition

The annual AGROart™ competition celebrates the history and progress of Placer County's agricultural and arts industries. The 13th annual AGROart™ competition will take place at the historic Blue Goose Fruit Shed in Loomis on October 12, 2008, as part of the 5th annual Placer Farm and Barn Tour. Watch talented artists, young and old, craft quirky sculptures out of fresh fruits and vegetables and vie for generous cash awards. AGROart™ promotes the commitment and professionalism of local ranchers, farmers, growers and artists in their respective trade or discipline and their continued role in the economic development of Placer County.

ARTIES Awards

The Arties Awards honor artistic excellence and outstanding volunteer contributions to the arts in Placer County. In 2008 PlacerArts is seeking nominations from communities throughout Placer County. Nominees may be in any of these categories: **Arts Administration** (may be a group or individual); **Arts Education** (may be a group or individual); **Arts Volunteer/Patron** (individual only); **Business Support/Partnership to the arts** (business only); **Visual and Performing Arts** (individual or group): **literary**, including poetry; **media arts**, including video and film; **music**, including composition; **performing arts**, including dance and theatre; **visual arts**, including design; and **Public Art Leadership**. The **Phyllis Butz Award** Recognizes an exemplary Trustee / Board Member of an Arts or Cultural organization in Placer County. Each year the "Artie" award is designed and crafted by a selected Placer County artist.

The Arts Building

The Arts Building is a ten thousand square foot arts center located in downtown Auburn. The Arts Building houses PlacerArts, the Auburn Symphony, six artists-in-residence, a teaching space, Metropolitan Arts Partnership's *Galley of Myth, Stories and Living Traditions*, and the ClayArts studio and classroom. The synergistic space offers a year-round gallery, and is a popular venue for cultural, musical and other events, including PlacerArts' Jazz at 808 and the Auburn Art Walk.

The six artists-in-residence jointly will present "New Work/New Beginnings" in 2008. This year-long project, supported in part by the Placer Community Foundation, includes ongoing journaling, collaborative projects and micro-exhibits at The Arts Building.

Auburn Art Walk

The much-celebrated Auburn Art Walk has been an invaluable catalyst for the exposure of local artists and merchants in Auburn. Taking place on the second Thursday of April, June, August, and October, the Auburn Art Walk is a social time when Downtown and Old Town business owners keep their doors open from 6 to 9 p.m., hosting free public receptions, while art viewers, strolling or riding the free trolley from site to site, immerse themselves in art, beauty and hospitality. Rosie Stilwell is the Auburn Art Walk program committee liaison.

2008 is the Auburn Art Walk's 15th season. Thursdays 6-9pm: April 10, June 12, August 14, October 9

Autumn Art Studios Tour

Don't miss the Autumn Art Studios Tour - a three-day self-guided driving tour of over 70 artists showing and demonstrating their art in their studios. Get an up close and personal view of the region's finest working artists in media from blown glass to pit-fired clay, painted silk to calligraphy. Like gold, it's all here nestled in the foothills of picturesque Placer County. Staff member Rosie Stilwell is the program coordinator for the Autumn Art Studios Tour.

Join us November 7, 8 & 9, 2008 for the 15th annual Autumn Art Studios Tour.

Jazz at 808

Now in its sixth season, *Jazz at 808* is Placer County's only world-class live jazz series. Presented in an intimate setting amidst the beautiful artworks of The Arts Building Gallery, with local wines served at the copper Wine Bar, it is a veritable feast for all the senses.

Percussionist Jimmy Robinson is the driving force behind the Jazz at 808 series, always bringing with him the most accomplished musicians available from Northern California and beyond, assuring sell-out performances each season.

2008 Jazz at 808 performances: Thursday, May 8; Thursday, July 10; Thursday, September 11

Old Library Art Studio (OLAS)

At the historic Carnegie Library building, a community of artists-in-residence generate waves of creativity that flow out to the community. It is a place of positive cooperative effort and a source of great pride. OLAS is open to the public for special events, workshops, and lectures. School tours and visits with the artists may be arranged by appointment.

PlacerArts.org

The placerarts.org website is a comprehensive online resource for the community, artists and organizations, with program details and contacts. A newly launched online Arts Calendar and Artist Registry, supported in part by the Placer Community Foundation, is under the direction of Program Specialist Karen Killebrew.

Placer Farm & Barn Tour

The 5th annual Placer Farm and Barn Tour will be held on October 12, 2008. Celebrating Placer County's agricultural heritage and the family farms that feed us, this is a fun-filled day for families and people of all ages to explore the farms and ranches that dot Placer County's rural landscape.

Roseville Community Office

In July, 2006 the Arts Council of Placer County entered into a two-year pilot partnership with the City of Roseville. PlacerArts hired Judi Nicholson as Arts Administrator for the community of Roseville and opened a satellite office on Vernon St. In coordination with the city Parks & Recreation Department and the Roseville Cultural Arts Committee, coalition building efforts between arts and culture organizations, the Chamber of Commerce, the City of Roseville and local residents are well under way. Contact Judi Nicholson at (530) 780-2787 or judi@placerarts.org.

Summer Series

The 20th annual Summer Series takes place on four Sundays evenings in July at the outdoor Library Garden Amphitheatre. Each season has something for everyone, from pops to rock, blues to salsa.

The 2008 season features:

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| July 6: | Fred Morgan |
| July 13: | Zydeco Flames |
| July 20: | Stardust Cowboys |
| July 27: | Doc Bach |

Staff

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| Angela Tahti, Executive Director | (530) 885-5670 | email@placerarts.org |
| Shawn Silver, Program Specialist | (530) 885-5670 | shawn@placerarts.org |
| Karen Killebrew, Program Specialist | (530) 885-5670 | karen@placerarts.org |
| Rosie Stilwell, Program Specialist | (530) 885-5670 | rosie@placerarts.org |
| Judi Nicholson, Arts Administrator | (916) 780-2787 | judi@placerarts.org |
| The Arts Building Gallery | (530) 885-2787 | shawn@placerarts.org |