



NEWS RELEASE

City of Chico

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January 13, 2010

RECEPTION FOR 20 YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF ARTS COMMISSION

Exhibit Celebrating Anniversary of City of Chico Arts Commission

On Friday, January 22, 2010, at 5:00 p.m., the City of Chico Arts Commission will hold an opening reception for an exhibit celebrating the 20-year anniversary of the Commission. Art work by, or from the collection of, current and former Commissioners will be on exhibit until July 9, 2010, in the Chico Municipal Center Building, 411 Main Street on all three floors. The reception will be held in the lobby on the first floor.

Art works by Gary Baugh, Hugh Brashear, Paula Busch, Patrick Collentine, Marybeth Growdon, Cris Guenter, Todd Hall, Jeff Lindsay, Monica McDaniel, Lynette Montgomery, Gregg Payne, Catherine Sullivan, Ralph Silva-Broussard, and Melinda Vasquez will be on display. Also on display will be art works from the collections of Kathy Barrett, Ginny Crawford, Rosemary Febbo, Mary Gardner, Hilary Herman, Carin Hilgeman, Matt Hogan, Debra Lucero, Jennifer Spangler, and Lucille Wanee.

The first meeting of the City of Chico Arts Commission was held on Wednesday, January 17, 1990. Consisting of seven members appointed by the Chico City Council, the Commission is charged with advising the Council on art matters.

In the last 20 years the Arts Commission has developed an Arts Master Plan and an Art in Public Places Policy, has made annual recommendations to the City Council for funding art organizations and individual artists, and has developed criteria and budgets for public art projects funded with Redevelopment Art Funds. The Commission annually coordinates the Arts and Humanities month celebration, including the Mayor's Awards for Achievement in the Arts in Memory of Joseph Kaveney, and the Downtown Window Art Project.

In the last few years, efforts have focused on tourism and economic development, spearheading arts marketing campaigns including *Art, It's in Our Nature*, and the annual *Artoberfest Celebration of Arts and Culture*. These efforts resulted in Chico's designation as number ten in "100 Best Small Art Towns in America" by John Villani. Community outreach has included local forums on public art, cultural tourism, grant writing, and planning for the future of arts in Chico. The Commission has contributed input regarding the General Plan, art in parks and the airport, participated on numerous task forces including the Performing Arts Center Task Force, Downtown Plan, and the design for the new City Hall. The Commission is currently working on a Public Art Master Plan and on ways to raise additional funds for local art projects and programming.

Between 1990 and 2010 the following individuals have volunteered their time to serve as Arts Commissioners: Cris Guenter, Joseph Kaveney, Patrick Collentine, Rosemary Febbo, Lynette Montgomery, Mary Gardner, Melinda Vasquez, Giovana Jackson, Deborah Jorritsma, Jackie Headley, Catherine Sullivan, Sharon Wallace, Marysa Andriola, Greg Tropea, Matt Hogan, Hugh Brashear, Kevin Cahill, Todd Hall, Hilary Herman, Aaron Bor, Jack Lee, Mary Memmer, Ralph Silva-Broussard, Kimberly Scherba, Paula Busch, Ross White, Robin Nichols, Debra Lucero, Kathy Barrett, Jennifer Spangler, Claudia Wrazel, Marybeth Growdon, Stephanie Roos, Juri Brilts, Ginny Crawford, Paul Friedlander, Angela Nelson, Jeff Lindsay, Lucille Wanee, Gregg Payne, Sandy Atkins, Samantha Gale, Carin Hilgeman, Gary Baugh, T.J. Glenn, and Monica McDaniel-Berg.

For further information contact Art Projects Coordinator Mary Gardner at 896-7214, or email mgardner@ci.chico.ca.us.