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**ArtsLIVE IN VENTURA COUNTY INITIATIVE
INVITES PROPOSALS FOR \$120,000 IN GRANTS FOR LOCAL NONPROFIT ARTS
ORGANIZATIONS AND ARTISTS**

Partnership with Ventura County Arts Council supports grants to artists in 3 year initiative

(CAMARILLO, CA – Dec. 21, 2008) — The Ventura County Community Foundation (VCCF) is accepting proposals for grants to highlight the depth and breadth of the arts produced in Ventura County, with an emphasis on art programming produced by or for youth, seniors and traditionally underrepresented groups.

ArtsLIVE is a three-year initiative that aims to increase support for the arts in Ventura County as part of the Irvine Foundation's *Communities Advancing the Arts Initiative*. Through the ArtsLIVE initiative, a combination of grants to nonprofits and local artists, core capacity training for local arts organizations and community wide convenings will be used to strengthen arts organizations and broaden the appeal for local donors to support Ventura County artists and arts organizations. "Our hope", noted VCCF President Hugh Ralston, "is to bring a wider group of stakeholders together to strengthen the arts in our community, spotlight homegrown artistic talent and help arts organizations increase their audiences and cultivate more sources of funding, both for operations and long term support."

The two year grants cycle will distribute over \$120,000 in grants, \$30,000 through the Ventura County Arts Council to local artists and \$90,000 through VCCF to local arts nonprofits.

\$90,000 in Nonprofit Grants for 2009.

The Grants to Nonprofit Organizations Program will be administered in two cycles, at \$90,000 per year, by VCCF. The 2009 cycle will focus on Visual, Media and Literary Arts. The 2010 cycle will center on Performing Arts as well as Folk & Traditional Arts. Requests in any amount up to a maximum of \$15,000 will be considered.

Deadline for proposals is 1 p.m. Friday, Feb. 20, 2009. For application eligibility and to view the Request for Proposals, visit <http://vccf.org/artslive.html>.

Those nonprofits interested in submitting a proposal are required to attend the informational meetings on Tuesday, Jan. 13, 2009, 10:30 to noon in the Community Room at VCCF, 1317 Del Norte Road, Suite 150, Camarillo.

To attend the informational session, contact LaToya Ford at (805) 988-0196, ext. 126, or at lford@vccf.org.

\$30,000 Grants programs for individual artists in 2009

A parallel grants cycles for individual artists is also being held, conducted by the Ventura County Arts Council. The **Artist in the Community Partnership Grants Program** is sponsored by the Ventura County Arts Council as part of ArtsLIVE in Ventura County. The Partnership Program brings artists and nonprofit community organizations together in new and creative ways that enliven and strengthen both partners. The program seeks to involve individual artists from all disciplines, including theater, music, writing, dance, film/video, photography, visual arts, etc. applying their skills to help county nonprofit organizations solve a problem, advance their organizational goals, or develop a program to serve their clientele.

The funded Partnership projects should be designed to mutually benefit both partners. The program seeks to employ the innovative capacity of artists to identify fresh ways that the arts can transform the everyday lives of county residents. The ultimate goal is to show how the arts can interact with other sectors of the community, to their mutual benefit, while at the same time using the inherent powers of the arts experience to expand the view of the arts in new populations. The community partner will benefit from the resulting product/program and the artist will benefit by employing their unique skills to stretch their career experiences in new directions. Particular interest will be paid to Partnerships that engage one or more of three target populations -- youth, seniors, or other under-represented groups. The Request for Proposals for the individual artists program is now available online at www.venturacountyartscouncil.org.

There are two (2) mandatory information meetings scheduled for artists wishing to apply. The first is Thursday, December 18 at 5:00pm in the Community Room at the Ventura County Community Foundation, 1317 Del Norte Road, Camarillo (take the Central Avenue exit from the 101 Freeway). The second meeting is Saturday, December 20 at 10:00am at the California Lutheran University Oxnard Campus, The Palms Shopping Center, 2201 Outlet Center Dr., Suite 600, Oxnard. (take the Rice Avenue exit from the 101 Freeway). For further information call the Ventura County Arts Council office at (805) 658-2213 or info@venturacountyartscouncil.org

The Ventura County Community Foundation is a family of 500 charitable funds with total assets of \$96 million, and distributed \$6.1 million grants and pledges in 2008. The Foundation's mission is to promote and enable philanthropy to improve our community for good for ever, building long-term charitable capital to benefit Ventura County. The Foundation has been confirmed in compliance with national standards by the Council on Foundations, a reflection of the highest peer review across the nations 700 community foundations. For more information, visit www.vccf.org.

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