

Contact: Hugh Ralston (805) 988.0196
President and CEO
hralston@vccf.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Ventura County Community Foundation launches Public Convening series
with a focus on *Building Communities through the Arts***

Camarillo, Calif. – January 12, 2009 - The ArtsLIVE initiative of the Ventura County Community Foundation leads off its Public Convening series with a featured presentation by national arts authority and Port Hueneme resident Jerry Yoshitomi.* As a leading proponent of *Building Communities through the Arts*, Yoshitomi will examine how the arts can not only illuminate public and community needs in areas such as homelessness and environmental awareness, for example, but can be catalyzed via innovative community partnerships to play a greater role in public problem solving.

The Convening opens at 4pm with an introduction to the ArtsLIVE initiative by Hugh J. Ralston, VCCF President and CEO, and concludes with a reception at 6pm. Yoshitomi's featured presentation includes commentaries by Ventura County Homeless and Housing Coalition Executive Director Cathy Brudnicki and San Diego Community Foundation Program Officer Felicia Shaw.

There is no admission charge, but reservations are requested via email to Arts Live Consultant Susan Scott at sscott@vccf.org, or by phone, 805.988.0196 ext 134.

ArtsLIVE is a three-year initiative to expand support for the arts in Ventura County, in partnership with The James Irvine Foundation's Communities Advancing the Arts. The Public Convening series is designed to gather the arts and broader community in public conversations to study, learn and strategize around issues important to strengthening and sustaining the arts in Ventura County. Additional information on ArtsLIVE is available at www.artsliveinvc.org.

What: Building Communities through the Arts, a Public
Convening of the Ventura County Community Foundation.
featuring Jerry Yoshitomi
When: Thursday, January 22nd, 2009
Where: The Lodge, 11 S. Ash St., Ventura 93001

*Jerry Yoshitomi is a consultant engaged by foundations, public arts agencies and arts organizations to research and provoke innovative new practices. He has been a frequent panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts, and a member of the California Arts Council. He is presently lead consultant responsible for development of the City of Los Angeles' cultural plan

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