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ARTSLIVE GRANTEES FOR 2010 ANNOUNCED

*Initiative at Ventura County Community Foundation joins artists,
nonprofits to seek creative solutions to local issues*

CAMARILLO, Calif. (June 18, 2010) – In the coming year, an *ArtsLIVE in Ventura County* grantee will create a project that gives combat veterans the confidence to tell their stories through theater. Another will sculpt whimsical figures to encourage people to visit the Ventura County Animal Shelter and adopt a homeless pet, while another will promote the survival of Spanish-language theater in Ventura County.

These are three of the nearly two dozen projects by artists and nonprofits which received a total of \$129,925 in funding through ArtsLIVE in Ventura County, at a grants reception earlier this month in Ventura.

The Ventura County Community Foundation, in partnership with the Ventura County Arts Council, launched ArtsLIVE in 2008 as part of the James Irvine Foundation's *Communities Advancing the Arts*. This three-year initiative aims to increase support for the arts in Ventura County through grants, management training for local arts organizations and community convenings, as well as establishing an endowed scholarship fund to send young artists to the best schools in the country for training.

The 2010 grants focus exclusively on the performing arts as well as traditional and folk art, said Hugh Ralston, president and CEO of the Community Foundation.

“The grants committee was impressed by the creativity of this year’s proposals and the commitment of the individuals and organizations to serve their communities,” Ralston said. “They took unique approaches to addressing homelessness, environmental preservation, literacy and exposing children to music, as well as developing the tools to allow their organization to expand donors and raise more funds.”

The 16 winning grantees from the nonprofit sector are:

Bell Arts Factory – \$8,000 for *The Sun Project* for youngsters to create a play as well as arts and crafts around myths about the sun;

Bell Arts Factory, as fiscal sponsor for Vita Arts Center – \$5,500 for the construction and performance of *Instruments of Pre-Hispanic Mexico* by school children in west Ventura County;

Big Brothers Big Sisters of Ventura County – \$6,000 for the *One Step a La Vez Artists Performances & Program*;

Channelaire Chorus/Sweet Adelines International – \$5,000 for the *Youth in Harmony Festival 2011*;

City of Moorpark – \$3,750 for the Moorpark Active Adult Center’s *Access to Traditional Arts Project for Older Adults: Gourd Art*;

Conejo Valley Senior Concerns – \$6,350 for the *Tapestries in Time-Artistic Journey of Older Adults’ Lives Project*;

Etc. Etc. Etc. /Elite Theatre Company – \$7,750 for the *Arts 4 You Program*, offering hands-on experience of the performing arts to Ventura County youth, ages 5 to 17 and living below poverty level;

Kingsmen Shakespeare Company – \$4,600 to perform *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* at two Title 1 schools in Santa Paula and in two libraries in Santa Paula and/or Oxnard;

Los Robles Master Chorale – \$3,300 for the Los Robles Master Chorale *Second Annual High School Choir Festival*;

Performances to Grow On – \$3,500 for the *Together We Can Make a Difference In Story Project*;

Save Our Kids' Music – \$10,400 to support marketing and staffing of the *Pleasant Valley School District Youth Arts Academy*;

Teatro de las Américas – \$6,000 to support audience development, fund-raising and marketing for Teatro de las Américas;

Theater 150 Inc. – \$7,500 to support an awareness campaign and ticket subsidies for underrepresented groups to attend *Ojai's Shakespeare in the Bowl*;

Thousand Oaks Philharmonic Orchestra – \$10,000 to support the creation of a marketing video and perform an additional classical concert for seniors;

Santa Paula Art Museum – \$5,000 for the *De Colores Art Festival*.

A total of \$30,723 – which includes a grant from ArtsLIVE and \$6,552 in matches from the community partner – were awarded to the eight individual artists, a program run by the Ventura County Arts Council, using a grants committee of volunteers. The Arts Council's program provides grants to individual artists who are collaborating with community organizations, which help fund the cost of the project.

The winning individual artists and their community partners for the 2010 Artists Grants are:

Richard Amend – \$5,000 to partner with the Ojai Valley Community Hospital to advance its art program;

Michael Arndt – \$3,000 to partner with the Military Order of the World Wars to develop a theater piece giving veterans from WWII to Iraq and Afghanistan an opportunity to tell their stories;

Dianne Bennett – \$4,000 to partner with the Ojai Land Conservancy and Ormond Beach Wetlands Preserve to create *retablos* of iconic flora and fauna, which will be published as prints and sold as fund-raisers;

Joseph A. Casteñada – \$3,204 to partner with El Centrito Family Learning Centers and Barbara Webster Preschool in the *Speaking Fragility to Create Confidence* program to raise family literacy levels through storytelling and parenting workshops;

Toni Jannotta – \$4,000 to partner with Project Understanding to produce a performance piece in which members of the homeless community reveal their stories accompanied by jazz improvisations;

Teal Rowe – \$3,769 to partner with Plaza Development to provide visual arts classes at Oxnard’s Downtown Center for the Arts for at-risk youth;

Tesi Snachez-Halpert – \$3,500 to partner with the Ventura County Animal Regulation Department to add whimsical animal sculptures created with welded scrap metal to the Camarillo animal shelter to make it more inviting to the public and help encourage the adoption of shelter pets;

Andrea Vargas-Mendoza – \$4,250 to partner with students, parents and teachers at the Santa Paula Child Development Center to create an integrated “Learning Wall” mural to help children of low-income migrant families with literacy skills.

To learn more about ArtsLIVE, go online to artsliveinvc.org or to the ArtsLIVE Ventura County page on Facebook.com. To view videos about each grantee, search on youtube.com for artsLIVE VC 2010 grantees.

Editors, please note: Artists in paragraph 9 is CQ.

VCCF is a family of charitable funds with combined assets of \$100.5 million. Its mission is to promote and enable philanthropy to improve our community for good for ever, which it does through grantmaking, scholarships and leadership training programs through the Center for Nonprofit Leadership. VCCF has been certified in compliance with national standards by the Council on Foundations, the highest form of peer review in the United States. For more information, visit vccf.org or contact VCCF at (805) 988-0196.

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