

ALAMEDA COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION

Belief Statement in Support of the Arts



Scott Miner

Alameda County Arts Commissioner

Representing Alameda County
Board of Supervisors, District Four
Castro Valley, Dublin, and Oakland

Belief Statement

When I was a kid my parents gave me an art kit at Christmas. I can remember with absolute clarity what was in it: charcoal, pastels, watercolors, and books on figure drawing, landscape, shading and color, painting and use of charcoal. These materials worked like water and sunshine on the seeds of my imagination. I lost myself in that kit—I drew, colored, painted, and made art in many shapes and forms. The work was not quality, but it laid the foundation for my later love of visual arts.

Growing up I studied drawing, painting, and metal sculpture. Today I am a college welding instructor and consider myself a serious amateur, often engaging in art making just for fun. It's certainly fun when I do it with my arts welding students at Las Positas College in Livermore. Teaching this class allows me to explore the artistic side of an important industrial process, interacting with students in a much different environment and mindset than is found in the industrial welding environment.

Art is different for everyone because everyone is different. Children especially need exposure to art because it opens them up to new ideas and concepts, and engenders thinking that would not emerge without that human interaction with art. Today when I put pencil to paper, pastel to pad, hands to sculpture, I think back to my early art experiences. And I wonder, did my parents have any idea of the impact that art kit would have on me, that my early exposure to art would create a mindset to last a lifetime?

Alameda County Alliance *for* Arts Learning Leadership