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**Alameda County Declares March 2019 Art IS Education Month  
and April 2019 Arts, Culture and Creativity Month**



Pictured from left are Winda Shimizu, Hayward Arts Council Director and Alameda County Arts Commissioner; Dr. Matt Wayne, Hayward Unified School District Superintendent; Mina Mangewala, HUSD's Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator; Supervisor Richard Valle, President of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors; Lorena Gutierrez, HUSD Cesar Chavez Middle School Art Teacher; Diane Gotanda, Arts Commissioner; Andrew Johnstone, Alameda County Arts Commissioner; Marisol Pastor-Cabrera, HUSD Harder Elementary School Art Teacher; County Supervisor Wilma Chan; County Supervisor Nate Miley; Cindy Chadwick, Alameda County Librarian; County Supervisor Keith Carson; Margaret Thornberry, Arts Commissioner; County Supervisor Scott Haggerty; Melissa Wilk, Alameda County Auditor-Controller; and Rachel Osajima, Alameda County Arts Commission Director.

**Oakland CA – (February 26, 2019)** – On Tuesday, February 26, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors recognized March as Art IS Education Month and April as Arts, Culture and Creativity Month. Board President Richard Valle presented the proclamation. At the event, Supervisor Valle was joined by the other four members of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors; Melissa Wilk, Alameda County Auditor-Controller; Cindy Chadwick, Alameda County Librarian; Rachel Osajima, Alameda County Arts Commission Director and appointed members of the Alameda County Arts Commission; and Dr. Matt Wayne, Hayward Unified School District Superintendent and school district representatives.

“I am pleased to recognize Art IS Education Month of March and Arts, Culture and Creativity Month of April,” said Board President Richard Valle. “These initiatives encourage Alameda County community members of all ages to connect with each other, create solutions, and build community through the arts.”

Alameda County's Art IS Education Month marks its 19<sup>th</sup> year anniversary of advancing all art forms as an essential part of a high quality and equitable education that ensures every student reaches their maximum potential. Art IS Education was founded in 2000 by the Alameda County Arts Commission and the Alameda

County Office of Education, and this is the 9<sup>th</sup> year that the Alameda County Library has joined the partnership to present free arts events to more than 140,000 community members at eleven Library locations across the County. These events include a wide range of workshops, performances, concerts, movies, art contests, exhibitions, and storytime activities for all ages. All library events are listed at [www.aclibrary.org](http://www.aclibrary.org).

Arts, Culture and Creativity Month is the 1<sup>st</sup> annual statewide advocacy event that recognizes the crucial role of arts, culture and creativity in the lives of everyone in California. This month long event is being organized by Californians for the Arts. Community members and arts organizations throughout the State are participating. There will be an Arts Advocacy Day at the State Capitol in Sacramento on Tuesday, April 23. For more information visit [californiansforthearts.org](http://californiansforthearts.org).

Also in March and April, the Alameda County Arts Commission presents the annual Youth Art Exhibition at the Alameda County Administration Building as part of the Art In Public Spaces program. The exhibition features watercolor paintings created by 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> grade students from Cesar Chavez Middle School in Hayward and pastel drawings by students from Harder Elementary School in Hayward. The exhibition is on display from March through the end of May in the Board of Supervisors lobby gallery on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the Alameda County Administration Building at 1221 Oak St., Oakland.

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