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For Immediate Release  
December 16, 2017

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**\* PRESS RELEASE \***

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**ALAMEDA COUNTY ARTS COMMISSION**  
***Community Identifier Projects – Opportunities for Community Involvement***  
***Respond by January 15, 2017***

(Oakland, California) – The Alameda County Arts Commission is beginning to work on Community Identifier Projects in three of Alameda County’s unincorporated communities: Castro Valley, San Lorenzo, and Ashland/Cherryland. The Community Identifier Projects involve designing and painting the name of the community along with other design elements on freeway overpasses. The overall goal is to create community gateway markers that help support a positive and welcoming environment for both the community and visitors. Practicing, professional artists will be selected through an open competitive selection process to design and paint the Community Identifiers. The projects will have multiple steps involving community engagement and feedback as well as reviews by local community groups, the Members of the Alameda County Arts Commission, the Alameda County Board of Supervisors and the CA State Department of Transportation (Caltrans). The Arts Commission encourages participation from community members. Currently, there are two ways for the community to be involved in the projects: 1) a Community Survey and 2) an Interest Form to serve on a Selection Committee.

Community members are invited to respond to a short Community Survey. The survey responses will be shared with the selection committees who will be choosing artists for these projects and also with the artists who are invited to make proposals for the projects. The survey is available online at <http://tinyurl.com/ztqzvan>. Responses to the survey will be collected through January 15, 2017.

The Arts Commission is also seeking community members to serve on the committees to select the artists and the designs for the Community Identifier Projects. Three unique committees will be formed, one for each community. The Arts Commission seeks to include a group of community members with diverse experiences and perspectives who are actively involved in the community and are interested in contributing in the success of the projects and the designs. No experience is necessary. Community members must be 18 years or older. Each committee will meet for two all-day meetings, once in March 2017 and once in September 2017. Community members interested in serving on the Selection Committee for their community should complete a response form at <http://tinyurl.com/zka9nnk>. Response forms are due by January 15, 2017.

Paper copies of both the Community Survey and Interest Form to serve on a Selection Committee are available. Contact the Arts Commission office at (510) 208-9646 to receive a paper copy. English and Spanish versions are available.

More opportunities for community involvement are being planned for the future including Community Roundtables with the artists making proposals for the projects in the Spring of 2017 and public displays and comments about the artists' proposals in the Summer of 2017. Community members who want to receive updates about the projects should send an email to [artscommission@acgov.org](mailto:artscommission@acgov.org) to be added to the Arts Commission's email list.

For more information about the Community Identifier Projects, contact the Alameda County Arts Commission at (510) 208-9646.

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