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300 Free Arts Events throughout Alameda County for 2017 Art IS Education Month in March

Oakland, CA – (February 28, 2017) – The Alameda County Arts Commission and Alameda County Library are pleased to present 300 free arts events during the 2017 Art IS Education Month. Art IS Education is an annual showcase of youth arts learning in March during National Arts Education Month. This year’s theme Creative Voices empowers youth, families and communities to connect, inspire, and make positive change in their communities. The month-long showcase features 300 free arts events for youth and families at twelve Alameda County Library locations, including the Bookmobile and REACH Ashland Youth Center.

In 2000, Art IS Education was founded by the Alameda County Office of Education and the Alameda County Arts Commission. This is the 7th year that the Alameda County Library has partnered to bring these exciting art events to over 146,000 community members throughout Alameda County.

A Series of 300 Free Arts Events

The series of 300 free arts events provides youth and families with a wide range of interactive arts learning opportunities through workshops, performances, concerts, movies, exhibitions, and storytime activities. Workshops offer hands-on instruction for a broad range of art forms such as origami, jewelry, doll making, painting, metal embossing, 3D printing, creative writing, and podcasting. Interactive performances include poetry nights, puppetry, sing-alongs, yoga, line dance, and more. All events are free and open to the public.

Youth and parents alike report that Art IS Education events have a positive impact on their lives, families, and communities:



Photo by Sibila Savage

“This workshop allowed us to participate as a family. Here we get a chance to work together and be creative.” Father of daughter, age 7

“It was fun that me and my grandma got to work together. Also I love art. We do it at home, but this was extra fun because we got to use stuff I don’t have at home!” Girl, age 10

“My favorite thing was learning how to sew because at first I thought this would be impossible, but it became super easy. Next I will make a robot and a car.” Boy, age 9

“I noticed my kids having a lot of fun. I want my kids to have new experiences. This art project makes our imagination stronger and makes me think.” Mother of three children

Art IS Education Youth Art Exhibition

The Alameda County Arts Commission presents the Youth Art Exhibition inspired by the Art IS Education theme Creative Voices at the County Administration Building as part of the Art In Public Spaces program. The exhibition features colorful houses made by kindergarten students from Maya Lin Elementary in Alameda, landscape acrylic paintings by high school students at Encinal High School in Alameda, and digital art posters by high school students from Oakland School for the Arts in Oakland. The exhibition is on display during the month of March on the first and fifth floors of the Alameda County Administration Building at 1221 Oak St., Oakland.

Art IS Education Proclamation

During the regular public meeting of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors on Tuesday, March 7, 10:45am, the Board President Wilma Chan will proclaim March 2017 as Art IS Education Month. The meeting will take place in the Alameda County Board of Supervisors' Chambers on the fifth floor of the County Administration Building at 1221 Oak St., Oakland, CA. The public will be encouraged to visit the Youth Art Exhibition as part of the Arts Commission's Art In Public Spaces program in the County Administration Building at 1221 Oak St., Oakland.

All events are free and open to the public.

For more information call (510) 891-5716 and visit www.aclibrary.org, www.artiseducation.org, www.acgov.org/arts. Art IS Education is a project founded by the Alameda County Office of Education in partnership with the Alameda County Arts Commission.

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