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Alameda County Declares March 2017 Art IS Education Month



Pictured (from left) are Anita B. Carr, Alameda County Arts Commissioner; Rachel Osajima, Alameda County Arts Commission Director; Supervisor Wilma Chan, President of the Board; Cindy Chadwick, Alameda County Librarian; Kirsten Bramstedt, Encinal High School Art Teacher; Anna Gonzalez, Alameda County Library Children's Services Coordinator; and Violet Juno, Alameda County Arts Commission Public Art Coordinator.

Oakland CA – (March 7, 2017) – Today the Alameda County Board of Supervisors recognized the month of March as Art IS Education month during National Arts Education month.

In 2000, Art IS Education was founded by the Alameda County Office of Education and the Alameda County Arts Commission to celebrate youth arts education throughout the County. This is the 7th year that the Alameda County Library has partnered with the Alameda County Arts Commission to present free arts events to more than 146,000 community members at twelve Library locations across the County.

"I am pleased to recognize this program that benefits so many youth and families during the month of March," said Board President Wilma Chan. "This year's theme, 'Creative Voices,' encourages Alameda County community members of all ages to use their artistic expression and voices for hope, positive change, and community building."

The Alameda County Arts Commission and Alameda County Library have partnered together to present a special series of 300 free arts events for all ages including a wide range of workshops, performances, 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. More information at www.aclibrary.org.

In honor of Art IS Education, 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.

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