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For Immediate Release
February 28, 2012

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PRESS RELEASE

**Art IS Education Public Events throughout Alameda County March 1 - 31
A series of 50 Arts Events at all 10 locations of the Alameda County Library
Featured Exhibition at the Alameda County Administration Building
Board of Supervisors Proclamation**

The Alameda County Arts Commission, in partnership with the Alameda County Office of Education, the Alameda County Library, Alameda County Health Care Services Agency, Alameda County Sustainability Program, and Alameda County Probation Department, is pleased to announce new events and resources in honor of Art IS Education.

Art IS Education is an annual showcase of youth arts learning in Alameda County in March during national Arts Education Month. This year's theme - "Creating A Better Future Together" – encourages youth, families and communities to explore how to create healthy lives, thriving families, peaceful communities, and a green planet.

To mark the 12th year of Art IS Education, Alameda County is pleased to announce the following events and opportunities:

Libraries + Art = Infinite Possibilities

In celebration of Art IS Education month, the Alameda County Library and Alameda County Arts Commission are presenting a special series of arts events for youth and families at all ten library locations plus the bookmobile. This series of 50 free arts events is titled "Libraries + Art = Infinite Possibilities" and includes a wide range of arts opportunities for youth and families including exhibits, puppet shows, concerts, demonstrations, storytelling, and workshops. The workshops focus on a diverse array of art media including jewelry, origami, watercolor painting, bookmaking, puppetry, rap poetry, duct tape art, sing-alongs, toddler crafts and an introduction to physics through color and movement. Many library locations are presenting Community Quilt workshops where community members of all ages will create paper quilts that express their vision for a better future. The quilts will be exhibited at the library locations during March. A complete list of events is available at www.aclibrary.org and www.artiseducation.org/10/.

Family engagement events at the libraries are also part of the 100 Families program that promotes art making and healthy eating as ways to strengthen families and neighborhoods. The 100 Families program is a project of the Alameda County Arts Commission, with support and shared vision from the County's New Beginnings program for at-risk youth. This year, the Alameda County Health Care Services Agency is participating in the project and will be providing healthy eating resources such as cookbooks, calendars, and colorful book covers at Art IS Education events to support the theme "Creating A Better Future Together."

Go Green through the Arts

In honor of Art IS Education, the Alameda County Sustainability Program in partnership with the Arts Commission is offering new resources to raise environmental awareness through the arts. Visit the Educator Page to check out the Art IS Education Sustainability Education Guide and the Community Quilt Project Plan, see examples of youth creating environmental solutions through art, get connected to a wide range of online resources, and get started with your own art and sustainability project.

Community Paper Quilt Exhibition

The Alameda County Arts Commission will present an exhibition of Community Paper Quilts inspired by the Art IS Education theme "Creating A Better Future Together" at the County Administration Building as part of the Art In Public Spaces program. The exhibition will feature colorful paper quilts made by youth and adult community groups including Alameda County Library, Alameda County Sustainability, Alameda County Arts Commission, Alameda County Alliance for Arts Learning Leadership, Albany Library, Montclair Elementary in Oakland, and Creative Power: The Alameda County Arts Commission's Arts Education Program at the Alameda County Juvenile Justice Center and Camp Sweeney. The exhibit is on display on the first and fifth floors of the Alameda County Administration Building at 1221 Oak St., Oakland, from March 1 – May 30. Artwork from the Creative Power program will also be on display at the Alameda County Office of Education galleries in March at 313 West Winton Avenue, Hayward.

Art IS Education Proclamation

On Tuesday, March 13, at 10:45am the Alameda County Board of Supervisors will proclaim March as Art IS Education month in Alameda County. Join us for this brief presentation in Board Chambers that will include a youth presentation. The public will be encouraged to visit the exhibition of youth and community art as part of the Arts Commission's Art In Public Spaces program on the first and fifth floors of the County Administration Building at 1221 Oak St., Oakland.

All events are free and open to the public.

For more information about Alameda County Arts Commission, please contact the Office of the Alameda County Arts Commission at (510) 891-5716 or visit www.acgov.org/arts.

For more information about the Art IS Education partnerships with Alameda County Library and Alameda County Sustainability, visit www.artiseducation.org/10/.

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