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For Immediate Release
September 24, 2014

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PRESS RELEASE

Alameda County Arts Commission announces seven recipients of the 2014 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award

Alameda County Board of Supervisors to Commend the Award Recipients on October 7, 2014

(Oakland, CA) – The Alameda County Arts Commission is pleased to recognize seven individuals for their achievements and contributions impacting the arts community and residents of Alameda County. The following individuals are the recipients of the **2014 Alameda County Arts Leadership Award: Jennifer Burke, Gary Comoglio, Michael Hall, Tom Harland, Gary and Nancy Harrington, and Linda Ryan.**

The Alameda County Board of Supervisors will commend these seven individuals during the Board's meeting at 10:45 a.m. on Tuesday, October 7, at the Alameda County Administration Building, Board Chamber, 1221 Oak Street, 5th floor, Oakland. This event will coincide with the County's celebration of California Arts Day and National Arts and Humanities Month of October.

Linda Ryan of Livermore, representing Supervisorial District One: Ms. Ryan is a practicing artist, community organizer, and the manager of the Livermore Valley Performing Arts Center's Bothwell Arts Center in Livermore. Ms. Ryan is an active resource for the many local nonprofit arts organizations and artists who are involved with the Bothwell Arts Center and the community. Ms. Ryan is also the founder and director of the Livermore ArtWalk, an annual arts festival held in downtown Livermore. She also produces and manages many other local arts events such as open studios and art exhibitions in multiple venues.

Tom Harland of Sunol, representing Supervisorial District Two: Mr. Harland is a longtime arts supporter and educator who has spearheaded numerous art projects benefiting the Sunol community over the last 30 years, including founding the Sunol Repertory Theatre. The Theatre's annual production is a major fundraising event for the Arts & Music Program at the Sunol Glen School that serves kindergarten through 8th grade students. To date, Sunol Repertory Theatre has donated well over \$100,000 to the Arts & Music Program. And from 1970 – 2001, Mr. Harland was a dedicated visual art instructor at Ohlone College.

Gary Comoglio of Alameda, representing Supervisorial District Three: Mr. Comoglio is a practicing artist, arts educator and community organizer. In 2013, Mr. Comoglio founded Gary Francis Fine Art in Alameda, which provides valuable opportunities to showcase many City of Alameda and Alameda County artists, offers arts education classes for all ages, and partners with the local Alameda business community. Mr. Comoglio is also a long-time supporter and board member of the California Society of Printmakers, based in the Bay Area, which promotes the practice and appreciation of fine art contemporary printmaking.

Gary and Nancy Harrington of Pleasanton, representing Supervisorial District Four: Mr. and Mrs. Harrington are long-time supporters of the arts in Pleasanton. They are the founders of the Harrington Art Partnership, established to support and advance public art in Pleasanton including monthly public art walks. The Harringtons are major supporters of the Pleasanton Firehouse Art Center and sponsors of the annual Fresh Works juried exhibition presented at the Harrington Gallery. They continue to be a sponsor for the Pleasanton Weekly's annual Tri-Valley Heroes Arts and Culture Award.

Jennifer Burke of Berkeley, representing Supervisorial District Five: Ms. Burke is a practicing artist, educator and community builder. In 2000, she founded the Young Artists Workspace (YAWS) located in Berkeley's Totland Park. YAWS serves the community by creating an art center dedicated to providing children, ages two to sixteen, with free and low-cost visual art classes meeting an important need in the community. Ms. Burke is also the founder and director of Westside Studio in West Berkeley that provides meaningful arts education classes for adults and families.

Michael Hall of Oakland, representing Supervisorial District Five: Mr. Hall is a practicing artist and arts educator at Creative Growth Art Center in Oakland. The Center serves adult artists with developmental, physical, emotional, and mental disabilities, providing a creative and supportive environment for artistic exploration, gallery promotion, and personal expression. For over 10 years, Mr. Hall has been the Center's painting, drawing and mixed media instructor. And, during this time he founded the Video Production Workshop that provides digital media experience for the Center's artists. Mr. Hall is also a painting teacher at Mills College in Oakland and at UC Berkeley.

The Members of the Alameda County Arts Commission selected these individuals from a group of nominees whose names were submitted by the public. Award recipients were selected based on their achievements within the arts field and their contributions to the community. The annual program recognizes individuals or teams from each supervisorial district. For more information about the program or the award recipients, please contact the Alameda County Arts Commission at (510) 208-9646 or by email at artscommission@acgov.org

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