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Being able to communicate with a professional artist was an experience I never thought I would be able to have in high school and The Arts Fund made it possible. This priceless program is a gem and something I will always count as a major stepping stone in my creative career.

Mary Frances Knapp, Teen Arts Mentorship student
Dos Pueblos High School

“To create one’s own world in any of the arts takes courage.”

---Georgia O’Keefe

Dear Arts Fund Supporters,

For more than two decades The Arts Fund has nurtured and honored the unique courage of artists in our community. From the shy teenager who wants to be a photographer to the seasoned playwright who has never seen his work performed in his hometown, The Arts Fund champions creativity. **What value do you place on creativity?**

The Arts Fund, on its own and through fruitful collaborations with other nonprofits, invests in projects that connect us with the arts in our community. County artists of all disciplines covet the ***Individual Artist Award (IAA)*** for its rich history in rewarding artistic excellence in our community with \$168,000 in cash prizes and countless solo exhibitions and performances. As an arts supporter or parent, you may be familiar with our ***Teen Arts Mentorship Program***--high impact arts enrichment classes that have helped over 450 area high school students advance their skills through in-depth study with professional artists. Now in its 10th year, ***The Arts Fund Gallery*** is a signature venue for showcasing these programs and other important civic exhibitions like the recent ***Uncharted Journeys*** photography show honoring the talent and achievements of Leinie Schilling Bard, Susan Bower, Virginia Castagnola-Hunter, and Mercedes Eichholz.

The Arts Fund serves both artists and art lovers who believe that fostering creativity at all phases of our lives have a lasting impact on the livability and economic vitality of Santa Barbara. Facts support our work:

- **Education.** Young people who consistently participate in comprehensive, sequential, and rigorous arts programs are *4 times* more likely to be recognized for academic achievement.
- **Quality of Life.** The National Endowment for the Arts’ (NEA) recent ***Creativity and Aging Study*** demonstrated that participatory arts programs can produce significant health benefits for older adults.
- **Economic Impact.** As of January 2010, Santa Barbara’s state congressional district was home to 2,233 arts-related businesses that employ 8,229 people.

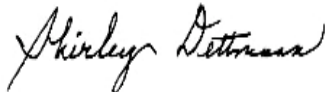
Regretfully, our state ranks dead last in public funding for the arts. As California struggles with its budgetary problems, this ranking is not likely to improve and cultural organizations throughout the state are working with less funds and growing demands for affordable arts programming.

The Arts Fund is doing more and better work than ever despite this ranking. **To maintain and grow our programs we depend on individual donors like you.** Most of our offerings are free to participants and the general public. Actual costs needed to produce the IAA, Mentorships and Gallery exhibitions are growing:

- \$230** Produces one of the eight annual exhibition announcements for community gallery
- \$935** Sends one talented high school student through a ten week Arts Mentorship session
- \$1,323** Pays for one month of overhead for our gallery and office
- \$4,433** Sponsors one Individual Artist Award (IAA) from competition to award and solo exhibit

Your financial support is critical to our continued success and the cultural community we all believe in. We always welcome donations of any size. To help us meet the ongoing challenges of this economic climate, please consider supporting the IAA, Teen Mentorships or Gallery with a minimum contribution of \$100. And if you can give more, please do so.

With Gratitude,



Shirley Dettmann
Board President

P.S. *I hope to see you in the Arts Fund Gallery for the opening of our 2011 annual Teen Arts Mentorship Exhibition on May 20th.*