



The Community Foundation
Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties

*Enhancing the quality of life
in the communities we serve.*

PRESS RELEASE

Contact: Celia Cudiamat (951) 684-4194, ext. 114 or Susan Kean (951) 684-4194, ext. 112
10/02/2006

Grants boost Temecula Valley arts organizations

From an international jazz festival, to a staging of John Steinbeck's "Of Mice and Men," to a young people's music competition—arts programs in the Temecula Valley were given a boost with \$40,000 in grants from The Community Foundation Serving Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. The grants were distributed to seven organizations: the Temecula Valley Art League, Musicians Workshop, Murrieta Repertory Theatre, Golden Valley Music Society Inc., Dorland Mountain Arts Colony, Inland Valley Symphony, and Broadway High Children's Theatre Arts Academy.

The grants are part of a two-year statewide initiative funded by The James Irvine Foundation to strengthen and promote the arts— theater, dance, music, and visual arts such as painting and sculpture—and make them accessible to everyone.

"The arts play such an important role in our society," said Sheryl Alexander, President and Chief Executive Officer of The Community Foundation. "Not only are they a source of enjoyment but they are invaluable to our children's education and development. The arts enrich lives and have been shown to improve academic performance."

Arts funding in California has been cut over the past four years by more than 94 percent—leaving almost no government support for arts education or development. The state now ranks 50th for per capita spending on the arts.

The arts initiative, begun with the Irvine Foundation grant, now enters its next and most important phase—establishing a permanent fund to ensure that the arts will continue to be supported for years to come. In the Temecula Valley area, The Community Foundation is working with The Arts Council of Temecula Valley to establish an endowment and encourage donors to support the arts.

Community members interested in financially supporting the arts should call Susan Kean, Vice President of Development, at The Community Foundation, (951) 684-4194 X116.

The Community Foundation is a nonprofit, 501(c)(3) public charity created by and for the people of Riverside and San Bernardino Counties. Established in 1941, The Community Foundation connects donors with the causes that are important to them. We now have \$45 million in assets and provide grants to nonprofit organizations as well as scholarships to every college and university in the two-county area. We awarded over \$3 million in grants and scholarships during 2005. For further information, please contact The Community Foundation at (951) 684-4194 or visit www.thecommunityfoundation.net.

Attached: Description of grant recipients and funded programs

Musicians Workshop. Their primary purpose is to expose children and adults to music; to encourage people of all ages to perform, and to provide them with the opportunity to perform. They currently offer 15 after-school and performance programs, including the popular Temecula Valley International Jazz Festival. Several of the program participants have gone on to perform with professional music organizations and appeared on national television. The \$7,500 grant will help fund the upcoming Jazz Festival.

Murrieta Repertory Theatre. The MRT provides professional quality theatre training to the Inland Valley region.

They have brought Shakespeare and other literary classics to local community elementary, middle, and high schools, and have won 10 Inland Theatre League awards for Excellence in the Performance Arts. The \$5,000 grant will help fund their production of "Of Mice and Men," part of their American Classics series of productions of plays based on American literary classics.

Golden Valley Music Society. The Music Society's purpose is to promote a wider appreciation of orchestral and chamber music through public concerts, festivals, and performances at community schools. They have formed the California Consort Chamber Orchestra, which presents concerts throughout the region. The \$5,000 grant will help fund their "Advancing the Arts Through Awareness and Audience Building Program," a campaign to build audiences of all ages throughout the area to promote awareness and enjoyment of chamber orchestra music.

Broadway High Children's Theatre Arts Academy. The Academy's mission is to provide a world-class theatre arts experience for children of all walks of life—from age four to teenagers and young adults. They have presented two major musical productions every year since 2002, winning numerous awards from the Inland Theatre League. The \$7,500 grant will help fund their community outreach program. The goal of this project is to serve the disenfranchised and underprivileged residents of the Temecula Valley.

Dorland Mountain Arts Colony. The Dorland Mountain Arts Colony is Southern California's only residential artists' colony. Situated on 300 acres in the mountains east of Temecula, the center has supported the development and work of artists in a retreat setting. In 2004 all ten structures on the site were destroyed by wildfires. Rebuilding is underway and the Colony plans to offer a series of workshops and other activities. The \$5,000 grant will help fund a brochure to let the public know of the rebuilding work and the new activities being offered.

Inland Valley Symphony. The Symphony brings together musicians, including both professionals and students, from across the Inland Valley for "the joy of making music together." Over the last six years since their incorporation they have presented a series of three to five musical programs each season, often featuring world-class guest artists. The \$5,000 grant will help fund the 2007 Young Artist Competition and Young Person's Contest, open to musicians age 18 and under in the Temecula Valley. The winners will get the opportunity to perform a solo work with the Inland Valley Symphony as well as a cash prize.

Temecula Valley Art League. The purpose of the Art League is to provide instruction, developmental support of artistic skills for the beginning as well as the professional artist. They have sponsored numerous art shows and other community events that showcase and promote local artists. The \$5,000 grant will help fund an informational brochure to promote awareness of and participation in their programs.