



PRESS RELEASE

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REGIONAL ART MUSEUM GOES FORWARD

July 1, 2010 — The Regional Art Museum to serve the cities of Thousand Oaks, Westlake Village, Agoura Hills, and Calabasas is moving forward with planning, development and inviting Charter Memberships. Locating the new visual arts center in downtown Thousand Oaks on city owned or provided land was unanimously approved in concept by the Thousand Oaks City Council at its June 22nd meeting. The recommendation to approve was made by Mayor Dennis Gillette and Mayor Pro Tem Andy Fox acting as the City Council Ad-hoc Committee for Cultural Affairs.

The Regional Art Museum task force, headed by former Ventura County Supervisor Frank Schillo, offered a Progress Report to the City Council in April and requested consideration of the project be slated for a City Council agenda. In March 2009, the Thousand Oaks City Council had acknowledged an art museum to be a top priority for 2010-2011 recognizing the need of a permanent location for the visual arts and pledging to participate in its development.

The non-profit Regional Art Museum (RAM) is the fulfillment of a study by the Conejo/Las Virgenes Future Foundation which determined the need for an arts museum to serve the Greater Conejo region from Calabasas to Newbury Park. Prominent business and community leaders, educators and artists—representing the 101 corridor communities—are involved in the effort to create the regional arts center. RAM will offer access to, education of, and appreciation for the contemporary and traditional fine arts. The Civic Arts Plaza is centrally located to serve a region of nearly one million people. The goals of RAM are: to provide a permanent location to house visual art collections; to provide educational art programs for all ages; to highlight local recognized artists with periodic showings; and to house and accommodate national and international traveling shows and exhibits.

The Regional Art Museum is a tax exempt 501(c)(3) organization supported by membership, special events, donations and fundraising. Charter memberships begin at \$50 for individuals and \$60 for families. Charter Golden Circle memberships for \$1000 and above will be acknowledged on a lobby plaque. For information contact Vice President Diana Malmquist at (818) 889-6169 or Executive Director, Michele DePuy Leavitt at (818) 414-8915.

For more than 15 years, the region has enjoyed and supported world-class performances at the Civic Arts Plaza in Thousand Oaks. The Regional Art Museum in partnership with the Civic Arts Plaza theaters will offer patrons enjoyment and appreciation of outstanding performance and visual arts.
