



BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
OF REDLANDS

PRESS RELEASE

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Young Artists

***Boys & Girls Club of Redlands exhibit original works
by Members of the Club at EOS Gallery.***

Over the past year, Members of the Boys & Girls Club of Redlands have been learning about many different artistic mediums and methods. These art sessions are facilitated by Worth Visual Arts, and give Boys & Girls Club Members an opportunity to explore non-traditional avenues of creating artwork. Worth Visual Arts has been working with the Club for the past five years. "A lot of the kids have never experienced the methods or the mediums we used," noted Michelle Worth, co-facilitator of the program. It was amazing to see what the kids can do. "The process was more important than the product – the kids got to experiment with what they did."

The Members have produced over one hundred and twenty pieces of art during this year's program. Many of these works will be displayed at the EOS Gallery on Citrus Avenue in Redlands August 12th – August 27th. "It is a great opportunity for the kids to communicate," added Sarah Slocum, co-facilitator of Worth Visual Arts. "They talked every step of the way – talking about what they were doing." "The hardest part is drawing the first line," said Blanca, a nine year-old Club Member, as she pointed to the black ink squiggle on her paper that became the side of a face.

The visual arts are a vital part of a well-rounded educational program for all Club Members. "Arts education offers members the opportunity to envision, set goals, and

determine a method to reach a goal and try it out,” said Kathy Dunn, Director of Program Services at the Club. “The kids get to evaluate what they have done, make revisions, solve problems, and best of all – imagine.”

Funding for the arts program has historically been provided by grant funding awarded to the Club. This past year, however, individual donors made this fine arts program possible. “We are fortunate that several of our donors feel that strongly about bringing the experience of art to a child’s world,” said P.T. McEwen, Chief Professional Officer of the Boys & Girls Club of Redlands. Many people helped ensure the success of this year’s art program, but leading the charge was Steve Wormser, Club Board Member and General Manager of Redlands Color Lab. “When Steve learned that we did not receive grant funding for the art program this year, he set out to find an alternative,” said McEwen. The result was a significant donation from Dave and Diane McLaughlin. Steve, along with Mimi Barr provided additional funding.

After the program was funded, Steve set his attention to ensuring a successful art exhibit. Shirley Harry of EOS Gallery agreed to provide the space for the exhibit; Sandy Gallagher of Gallagher Jewelers provided the name plates for the art work; David Labowitz, president of Valley Molding provided the molding at cost and the matting and hardware for free; and Steve had his staff at Redlands Color Lab assemble the art work, getting it ready for display.

“When I saw the art work for the first time, I was amazed that we have so many incredible young artists at the Club,” said Wormser. He noted that the sales of the art work will help fund next years’ program, and hopes this art show begins an annual tradition. EOS Gallery is waiving any fees and commissions on the sales of the Clubs art work, meaning that all of the monies raised will go to support next years art program for the kids.

EOS Gallery is located at 304-A Citrus Avenue in Redlands. The Gallery is open on the weekends from 10:00am to 5:00pm on Saturday and 11:00am to 5:00pm on Sunday.

An opening reception will held Wednesday, August 16 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm. Many of the young artists will be present during the reception.

About Worth Visual Arts Program

Worth Visual Arts Programs is a visual art curriculum and program development for at-risk elementary, junior/senior youth, pediatrics and adults. Specialized visual art program development for specific organizational needs and age levels. Michelle Worth has been working in the art world since 1975 – from art educator in school districts to Educator Curator for the Riverside Art Museum. Since 2000, Michelle has been working as an art educator consultant and art program development.

Sarah Slocum has been working with Michelle Worth since 2001 as an assistant and more recently as a co-facilitator. Sarah also works with California Family Life Center and the Valley-Wide Recreation and Park District – as an art facilitator working with pregnant and parenting teens.

About EOS Gallery

The EOS Gallery (www.eosgallery.com) exhibits contemporary paintings, works on paper and photography by established and emerging artists. The EOS Gallery was established in 2001 to provide a venue for promoting and broadening the opportunities for artists to present their works. Our goal is to present affordable and collectable art by American artists with some emphasis on contemporary California artists.

About Boys & Girls Club of Redlands

Boys & Girls Club of Redlands (www.bgcr.org) is an affiliate of Boys & Girls Clubs of America. Known as “The Positive Place for Kids,” the Clubs provide guidance-oriented character development programs on a daily basis for children 6-17 years old, conducted by a full-time professional staff. Key Boys & Girls Club programs emphasize character and leadership development, education and career development, health and life skills, the arts, sports, fitness and recreation.

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