

## On Nurturing Creativity

by Robert J. Dowling, editor-in-chief  
and publisher, *The Hollywood Reporter*.

*Reprinted with permission.*



Drawing by  
Warren Dayton

The future will be formed by those among us who invent things, discover things, create things. Those who can articulate ideas that change how we think and act about things.

There's no question they are currently among us and only need a catalyst to open their senses and guide them into the future. They are the artists.

Dreamers, thinkers, writers, composers, painters, musicians, dancers, directors, actors and other such gifted people hear, sense and see things many of us don't. They write books, discover new formulas, new equations, compose music and translate the current pulse beat of our universe into a language understandable to the rest of the world. A language that appears on a keyboard, a canvas, a stage, a screen or a blank piece of paper. These are the classrooms for the rest of us who don't hear the song or see the picture. Without them, we are doomed.

The creative among us don't just materialize. They evolve out of a society that is nurturing and encouraging and motivates them to pursue their gifts. They discover themselves long before we discover them. Unfortunately, many are never discovered, and we are

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## Bringing the Arts into Public Places

For many years, the public has derived much satisfaction from EDAC exhibits of local artists' work in various public venues in the county.

Not only are these exhibits a splendid way to show off the talents of students and artists of all levels, but they are also a way to bring beauty and pleasure to residents and visitors in El Dorado County.



"Comfort and Joy" by Russell Reyes  
El Dorado County.

Over time, the number of artists interested in exhibiting their works in public places has grown. And, not surprising, the number of businesses, restaurants, government agencies and others who recognize the benefits of devoting some of their space to works of art has increased as well.

In order to respond professionally and fairly to these increased requests, the Board of Directors of the El Dorado Arts Council decided it was time for a set of policies to govern these activities. A committee, led by Gary Martin and Sheila Daly, spent some months researching and writing EDAC's Exhibits Policies and Procedures, which were recently adopted by the



Painting by Ashley Freitas

Board. They cover issues ranging from who qualifies to exhibit, duration and location of exhibits, signage, sales and insurance, framing and hanging, publicity and receptions.

Artists or owners or managers of potential venues are encouraged to contact EDAC for information on how to participate in the EDAC Exhibits Program. ☾



## From the Executive Director

Dear Reader,

A new angst has befallen many nonprofits as we grapple with sudden and unexpected challenges to our survival. However, it is in tumultuous times that we often discover within our organizations new strengths, alliances and ideas. It is certainly true for the El Dorado Arts Council.

Since the beginning of the year, we have been encouraged and uplifted in unexpected ways. Such as a note from a stranger, saying "You're doing a great job! Keep up the good work." Or a message left on our answering machine, saying "Thank you for the film series — it's added so much to my life." Or the carefully printed note from young students saying "Thank you so much for giving us those tickets [to see the Shakespeare performers]. We really appreciated seeing the show."

These messages tell us that we are making a difference in the lives of our community. This is the most profound — and satisfying — role we play.

Listening to the needs of the community has generated new ideas and collaborations. Together with the County Library and Friends of the Library, we recently initiated a new poetry workshop. Working with the Health Department, the "Kick Butts" anti-tobacco event included kids creating sidewalk chalk art, led by professional artists Barbara Nilsson and Benjamin Zavaleta. Artists of all kinds often walk in our doors—sometimes we know them, sometimes we don't. But it's always an amazing gift to our community when one of them offers to teach or perform or exhibit for the benefit of so many.

Other new faces come in too — like the young professional woman who offered to volunteer her many talents with us. And then there's that unexpected donation in the mail! How fortunate we are!

We are embarking on a new era for the arts. It is a time when budgets are tight. A time when awareness of the overwhelming value of the arts in our society is growing. A time when research is supporting the absolute necessity of the arts in our children's education. A time when arts organizations are learning to be advocates for the programs about which they are passionate.

A little more passion and a little less angst will help us see the arts flourish in El Dorado County.

Sincerely,

## A Question of Art

Do you recognize this fragment from a famous work of art?

Look for the answer in the next *ArtViews*.



## ArtViews

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El Dorado Arts Council

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## Creating Quality Arts for Kids

by Chris Monroe

This is the first of three articles describing the “state of the arts in California” from three perspectives. Beginning with the view from a small rural school district dedicated to providing the arts for their students, future articles will examine arts education in El Dorado County and Northern California; and finally, the birds’ eye view will take a look at arts programs throughout the state of California.

What does it take to make a quality arts program happen in California?

Dedication, creativity, and commitment . . . This series will paint the picture of how, where, and who is making the arts come alive and grow, despite growing pressure from high-stakes testing and declining budgets.

The journey begins with a look at the “nuts and bolts” of building a Kindergarten through eighth grade arts program from the perspective of a team of 30 people (teachers, parents, administrators, community members) who were determined that their students deserved a quality arts program.

Pioneer Union School District in Somerset is a small, rural district of 3 schools (K-8th grades) who have a big vision . . . to build an environment in which every student can sing, dance, play instruments, act and create art! We have the blueprints in hand: a 6-year implementation plan for making the arts basic for all students based on the California Visual and Performing Arts Standards. The foundation has been laid with committed district, community and state support. Pioneer is in the sixth year of building the program, providing our students with the building blocks for the arts: sequential, developmentally appropriate

skills. What does this program look and sound like? Here are some highlights:

**MUSIC:** Our music teacher, Steve Lishman employs the Orff Schulwerk method of teaching classroom music to the K-4th grade students — learning to sing and play, to hear and understand, to move and create — as an active and joyful experience. Orff Schulwerk is a total approach to fostering creativity and conveying musical knowledge and skills. Using their voices to speak and sing, and their bodies to move and dance, children joyously progress from musical imitation to improvisation and literacy. The special Orff melody instruments include wooden xylophones and metal glockenspiels that offer good sound

immediately. Played together as in a small orchestra, their use helps children become sensitive listeners and considerate participants.

Students in 5th through 8th grades can choose to build on their musical foundation and learn to play an instrument. The band program has grown in three years to include a beginning, intermediate and advanced band with instruction four days a week and performances several times during the school year.

**VISUAL ART:** The environment for visual art is a very large well-lighted classroom with four sinks, an extensive art library and prints accessible to the students, space for display and exhibition and a rich variety of arts materials. The art room has been equipped through a combination of district funding, state grants, fundraising by the Parent Teacher Organization and community donations. The visual arts program is enhanced by parent volunteers in the FAME program, providing Historical and Cultural Context, who share their love of famous artists and composers with the students. In addition, through the study and



Drawing by  
Warren Dayton

## Doing the Math:

### California's Coming Budget Year

In 2002-03, the California Arts Council's (CAC) grant programs were cut 30% to 60%.

The El Dorado Arts Council's grants from CAC were, in fact, reduced by 50%.

Now, Governor Davis is proposing another 50% cut to arts programs for 2003-04.

While everyone needs to share in the burden of budget cuts, the arts should not suffer a disproportionate share. This is especially true in rural communities, where access to the arts is extremely limited.

### Impact of the Arts in California

For every \$1 invested in the arts in the community, \$11 is created in revenue in a 5-mile radius.

For every \$1 cut from the CAC budget last year, the state lost \$1.83 in revenue.

The Arts are an economic engine that account for more than 400,000 jobs and contribute \$800 million to the state treasury annually.

The arts generated \$16.75 billion dollars in economic activity for the state last year, including \$6.65 billion from direct spending by arts organizations in the form of salaries and consumer purchases and \$10.1 billion of arts related spending. ☾

**Let our elected state officials know how you feel about the positive impact of the arts in our county. You may write to them at these addresses:**

**Governor Gray Davis** • Governor@governor.ca.gov  
State Capitol Bldg., Sacramento, CA 95814

**Senator Thomas Rico Oller** • Senator.Oller@sen.ca.gov  
California State Senate, State Capitol Room 2048, Sacramento, CA 95814

**Assemblyman Tim Leslie** • Assemblymember.Leslie@assembly.ca.gov  
State Capitol, Room 4208, Sacramento, CA 95814

## Doing the Research:

### Arts Make a Difference

Arts institutions decrease crime and increase pride in their local neighborhoods.

The arts provide a sense of state and national prestige, as well as a legacy for future generations.

The arts develop a higher level of compassion and tolerance for others, an important investment in a diverse state like California.

Arts education prepares students for the workforce by helping them develop workplace skills such as teamwork and flexibility.

Business leaders praise arts in education programs for providing the future work force with the ability to imagine ideas and problems from different perspectives. ☾



The El Dorado Arts Council is a nonprofit umbrella organization that acts as a catalyst to enrich and educate the community through the advancement of all the arts.

### ANNUAL DUES

<b>Senior</b> (60 yrs +)	\$17
<b>Student</b> (full time)	\$17
<b>Individual</b>	\$25
<b>Family/ Household</b>	\$35
<b>Non-profit organization</b>	\$45
<b>Business</b>	\$60
<b>Donor</b>	\$100
<b>Benefactor</b>	\$500
<b>Friend</b>	\$1,000

El Dorado Camera Club or Placerville Arts Association Reciprocal Membership - \$2 discount applies.

All donations are **tax deductible**



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## On Nurturing Creativity

always the lesser for it. Without the support to help them develop their skills, there would be no advancement of their gifts. They need this support before they can go inside themselves to uncover the gifts that yearn to be unleashed.

It would be easy to confine creativity to the world of entertainment, but the reality is that it is found in every human endeavor. Without its force and power as a basic part of our everyday lives, we are destined to repeat what we already know.

A tragedy bubbling in our country today stems from proposals in some state legislatures to do away with funding for arts programs. The *New York Times* reported [recently] that a legislative committee in Arizona has recommended eliminating the state's arts agency and its \$5.1 million annual budget. The committee also has urged that a \$7 million fund established as an endowment for the arts be dissolved.

The *Times* also reported that New Jersey Gov. James McGreevey has proposed cutting the entire \$18 million budget of his state's Council on the Arts and canceling a planned \$10 million payment to a cultural trust fund. Missouri also plans to eliminate its entire arts budget, and other states may follow suit, the *Times* said.

Do the states have budgetary problems? Absolutely. Do they need to sacrifice because of the shortfalls? Absolutely. Do important programs need to be trimmed? Yes, without question.

But wipe out arts budgets altogether? No.

The arts are a medium into our future. They are our vehicles for introspection, enlightenment and pleasure. They can't be manufactured, reproduced or legislated. We need to identify the new artists, nurture their gifts and support them, irrespective of how difficult it will be to afford them. We all need to get involved; the entertainment industry, an industry that understands the relevance of creativity better than anyone, must get involved.

Americans need to be assured that we are a people that encourages their opinions, their thoughts — and their artistic expression. Otherwise, we as a people will stagnate.

We must not allow arts programs to be purged anywhere in this country. 🌙

Continued from page 3

## Creating Quality Arts for Kids

analysis of visual arts from a variety of cultures, learning "Aesthetic Valuing", students gain an understanding and appreciation of the creative expression of many world cultures throughout history.

VISITING ARTISTS: Through the El Dorado Arts Council's ArtsBank program and grants from the California

**"I cannot imagine anything more responsible than the work of persuading a schoolchild to express his or her anguished or joyful observations and to be self-rewarded with a poem or a painting. Whole lives ride on moments like that."**

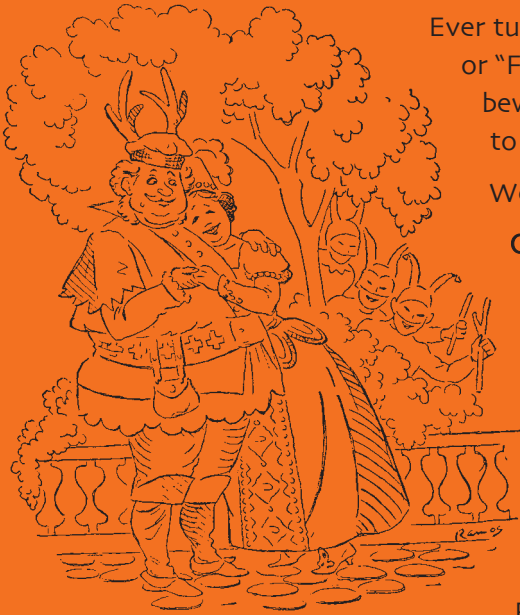
— E. L. Doctorow, author

Department of Education, visiting artists are providing the students with a variety of instruction in the visual arts, dance and theatre.

Making the arts come alive in the Pioneer District is happening because of a long-term concerted effort by the entire school community. The next article in the series will highlight how some other districts in El Dorado County and Northern California are developing programs to ensure that their students receive their rightful heritage: a quality arts program as an integral part of their education.

*Chris Monroe is a former classroom and visual arts teacher and is currently the Academic Coordinator for the Eisenhower/Sierra North Arts Project Visual and Performing Arts Grant; she also is the Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator for the Pioneer Union School District.* 🌙

## Figaro it Out



Ever tune in to KXPR (90.9) radio for a “Metropolitan Opera” or “Friday Night at the Opera” broadcast and find yourself bewildered by characters, language and plot while trying to simply enjoy the music?

Well, help is at hand. Check out these sites on the Web.

### OperaGlass at [opera.stanford.edu](http://opera.stanford.edu)

The alphabetical lists make it easy to find plots, full lyrics and performance histories of most popular operas.

Opera America runs two sites: [OperaAmerica.org](http://OperaAmerica.org) and [OperaWorld.com](http://OperaWorld.com). Both sites publish contemporary opera news. The Broadcast Booth lists upcoming opera radio broadcasts and a search function finds opera performance schedules.

Fantastico!! 🌙

## Imagine the Possibilities

Are you one of the many who are interested in seeing the development of arts facilities in El Dorado County? Are you ready to entertain new ideas? And willing to consider strategies that benefit the whole community?

Then you should join us for the next Arts Networking meeting on April 28 at 6:30 p.m. at El Dorado Center, Room 212. Jerry Smith, principal of El Dorado High School will share an innovative and daring picture of what the future might hold for the arts in our community.

However, the vision is not complete without the artists, musicians, writers, performers and other creative workers lending their creative solutions to this community challenge.

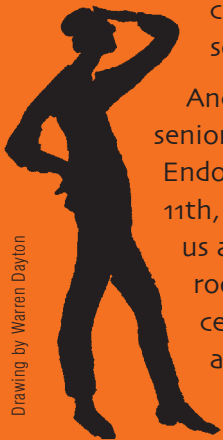
And the time is right. As Eileen B. Mason, senior deputy chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts said, “Since September 11th, we’ve seen how important the arts are to us as individuals, and as communities. We Americans are reconnecting with our roots, reflecting on our history, and expressing ourselves — in both sorrow and celebration — through painting, music, song, poetry, dance, and crafts. Home and hearth are back in style. And that’s good for the arts and good for local communities.”

For more information, call 295.3496. 🌙

“Ruralism is a stereotype from the outside. The real issue is not how outsiders view us but how we view ourselves. Our greatest limitations are those we impose on ourselves.

Some of the most profoundly creative, brilliantly insightful art I’ve seen is from communities of less than 2,500 people. It’s access to excellence. When you have the one you will produce the other.”

— Patrick Overton, author, *Rebuilding the Front Porch of America: Essays on the Art of Community Making*



## Two Grants Support *ArtViews*

EDAC recently received two generous grants to support the publication of the quarterly newsletter *ArtViews*. The El Dorado Community Foundation awarded the El Dorado Arts Council a \$2,000 grant and El Dorado Savings Bank donated \$1,750.

Steve Healy, Executive Director of the El Dorado Community Foundation explains that the grant came through the "Cultural Arts Fund," the largest of three "Field of Interest" funds held at the Community Foundation. Other "Field of Interest" funds include one that focuses on children and families and another that focuses on seniors. These "Field of Interest" funds enable community members to make donations toward a particular cause. The Community Foundation then distributes the earnings from these funds to worthwhile organizations within that field.

"We are encouraged and thankful to be recognized by the Community Foundation," says EDAC President Sheila Daly. "They are keenly aware of the many recent budget cuts affecting arts funding; through this grant they have acknowledged the importance of promoting the wealth of artistic talent here in El Dorado County."

Tom Meuser, Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of El Dorado Savings Bank adds, "We hope that this donation will allow you to continue to provide your "ArtViews" newsletter to the community, including the low-income minority and rural families that would normally not have access to the arts."

Published quarterly, the *ArtViews* newsletter has a circulation of 2,000; printing and mailing costs total \$5,600 annually.

**EDAC applauds the both the El Dorado Community Foundation and El Dorado Savings Bank for their interest in issues affecting the life of the community.** 🌙



## Congratulations to EDAC Grantees

The El Dorado Arts Council recently awarded grants to one arts organization and five individuals who applied for funding through the agency's Regrant Program. The goal of this program is to support arts projects that meet a high standard of quality, respond to the needs and interests of the community and provide cross-cultural exchange. This year's recipients include Judith Taylor Graham for publication of "Harmonics: a poetry collection," visual artist Shell Benesch for the "Art Through History for Kids" program to be held at the County Library in Placerville, Mike Jimena and Connie Mockenhaupt-Jimena for the El Dorado Theater Education Project, and Tahoe Arts Project for performances by "Manding Jata," bringing the music, dance and oral traditions of the Mali Empire to schools and the community.

This program is funded in part by the California Arts Council and the County of El Dorado. 🌙

## A Question of Art

Do you recognize this fragment from a famous writer's work?

"An unalterable and unquestioned law of the musical world required that the German text of French operas sung by Swedish artists should be translated into Italian for the clearer understanding of English-speaking audiences."

Look for the answer in the next *ArtViews*

### Answers

to previous issue's  
"A Question of Art":

Burning Gas Station, 1965-66,  
oil on canvas, by Edward Ruscha

"The Folly of Being Comforted" by  
W. B. Yeats (1865-1939)

# Save the Date

The El Dorado Arts Council  
General Membership Meeting  
& Celebration Honoring the 2003  
California Arts Scholars from  
El Dorado County

Thursday, June 5  
5:30 – 7:30 pm

On the Patio at Kathy's Courtyard Café

Fine food, friends and entertainment  
Watch your mail for details!



Drawing by Warren Dayton



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