

Just a quick reminder... the Arts Forum is tomorrow night and it is **extremely important** that the art community attend and support the efforts to elect an arts friendly Ventura City Council. Our voices will make clear that the arts are more than an economic driver they are at the foundation of a healthy community. I look forward to seeing you there! - Donna

**IMPORTANT ARTS FORUM - FRIDAY, OCTOBER 16 - 6:30
CROWNE PLAZA VENTURA BEACH**

Dear Arts Supporter:

As a supporter of Focus on the Masters you already know that the arts can have an incredibly positive impact on the lives of Ventura County residents. You know that the arts are the building blocks for creating an economically viable, high quality, and better educated community.

That's why Focus on the Masters is a proud supporter of the Ventura City Council Candidates Arts Forum, to be held Friday, October 16, 6:30pm at the Crowne Plaza Ventura Beach, 450 E. Harbor Blvd. Ventura. San Buenaventura Foundation for the Arts (SBFA) is hosting this event for the sixth consecutive election cycle so that the arts community can have a dialogue with potential City leaders and assess their commitment to the arts as a civic priority.

Your attendance will help maintain and increase funding for the arts. The high attendance at our past Forums has proven to be extremely effective in influencing support from our leaders. This year's "speed dating" format will give us even more opportunity for direct communication with these candidates.

There are two actions you can take to make sure City Council members continue to understand the importance of the arts to our community:

- Go to www.venturaarts.org, the website of SBFA, click on the "Arts Forum" banner on the home page, and it will link you to the Arts Forum website. There you can read the candidates' statements, the amazing list of supporting arts organizations and some vital background information about why the arts are so important to our communities. Formulate your ideas and questions, and then,
- Attend the Forum and bring a friend on Friday, Oct. 16. Join us to show the Candidates how fervently the community supports the arts.

We can't emphasize enough...candidates are definitely influenced by the DEMONSTRATED desires of the citizens. We have nearly 60 supporting arts organizations. If all of the organizations send just 10 people, that's almost 600 supporters -- and that's an attendance level that would *far* outstrip the next largest political forum in town.

It is amazing how much artistic talent is in our community; it is even more amazing and impressive when it all comes together in one location! Please help in this effort. It's important! I will see you there!

**Donna Granata and your friends and arts
advocates at Focus on the Masters**

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