



SYNERGY ART FOUNDATION

A National Heritage Foundation

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For immediate release

November 14, 2003

SYNERGY ART FOUNDATION TO PROMOTE AND NURTURE ARTISTS

Born out of compassion for artists profoundly affected by the recent firestorms, a group of five arts advocates joined together to form a new foundation called **Synergy Art Foundation**. Its immediate mission is to provide emergency financial assistance to local artists deeply impacted by the recent disaster in our county.

Synergy Art Foundation falls under the umbrella of The National Heritage Foundation, a 4.3 billion dollar foundation based in Falls Church, Virginia. It is a public charitable corporation classified under Section 501(c) (3), 509(a) of the Internal Revenue Code. The National Heritage Foundation is the administrative facilitator of their approved charitable organizations, providing perpetual advisory leadership for their foundations' activities.

Approved on November 12, 2003, Synergy Art Foundation plans to support and nurture artists via pioneering programs in arts education, arts for healing, community arts, and national/international art residencies. The Foundation's guiding vision is that **art, in its diverse forms, enriches our lives. Art can be a catalyst for personal empowerment, enhanced creativity, community-building and positive social change.**

A special event is being planned for next month to raise money for those artists profoundly affected by the firestorms. A sub-foundation of Synergy Art Foundation, the San Diego Emergency Artists' Support League (SD-EASL), will provide limited emergency financial assistance to local artists, both visual and performing, who are in need due to medical crisis, accident or loss of personal or professional property.

Synergy Art Foundation plans to collaborate with local organizations in providing and promoting arts education for children and youth and pioneer new arts educational programs that may combine two or three disciplines, such as the arts and nature, art and environment, art and science, etc.

The Foundation will also work with healthcare facilities to grow and nurture arts for healing programs. A pilot program with a local community hospital is planned for 2004. Additional plans include partnering with local communities to undertake meaningful community art projects not only to beautify our towns but also to strengthen and build our communities.

more...

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Art is a catalyst for personal empowerment, creativity, community building and positive social change.

International art projects are also part of this foundation's platform. An arts project in which Synergy Art Foundation in partnership with Umzingwane Aids Network in Zimbabwe is scheduled for 2004, and aims to bring the arts to Aids orphans. In Zimbabwe, it is estimated that nearly 1 in 5 children has lost a parent to AIDS. Often it is just a question of time before the other parent dies. Some experts fear that within a few years, half of Zimbabwe's children could be orphans.

Further plans include work/study residencies for national and international artists at appropriate institutions and arts organizations in San Diego County. Synergy Art Foundation is currently working with a major musical institution in San Diego to sponsor two talented classical pianists from Yugoslavia —Lidija Bizjak, 27, and her sister Sanja Bizjak, 15, in their 2004 summer program.

Synergy Art Foundation is a philanthropic organization that is open to all artists, including visual and performing artists, writers, poets, filmmakers, and arts organizations. Requests from applicants will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis.

If you are interested in making a tax-deductible donation to the foundation, please issue checks to "Synergy Art Foundation" and mail to: Synergy Art Foundation, Naomi Nussbaum, 251 Barbara Avenue, Solana Beach, CA 92075. For more information, please contact Naomi Nussbaum at (858) 509-1155 nna@adelphia.net.

For assistance with asset transfers and non-cash charitable contributions, please contact: Jean Rodolphe Luthi, Philanthropic Development Officer, Luthi Financial Services, (619) 339-9975 JRLUTHI@CS.COM.

For information on the National Heritage Foundation, please call (800) 986-4483.