

Escondido youth art festival returns this weekend



Professional artists have been working with students in local schools

By **Michelle Breier** 6 A.M. MARCH 6, 2014



ESCONDIDO — Student art will take center stage on Saturday in downtown Escondido at the second annual “sm{ART} Festival.”

The Escondido Alliance for the Arts Education puts on the citywide youth art festival to promote arts education in schools.

This year’s event will be from noon to 6 p.m. at the [California Center for the Arts, Escondido](#), 340 N. Escondido Blvd.

More than 2,500 pieces of student art will be on display in the arts center gallery and outdoors. Live performances in the Center Theater begin at 4 p.m. The festival also will include “make and take” art projects, a DJ, games, contests, live music and dancing. More than 15 schools in the K-8 Escondido Union School District are participating: Conway, Felicita, Glen View, Juniper, L.R. Green, Miller, North Broadway, Oak Hill, Orange Glen, Reidy Creek, Rock Springs and Rose Elementary schools; Bear Valley, Del Dios and Hidden Valley middle schools; and Nicolaysen Community Day School. The Classical Academy charter school also is included.

Much of the artwork was created on “sm{ART} Fridays,” a volunteer arts education program that placed about two dozen professional local artists, including members of the [Escondido Arts Partnership](#), in local public schools for art lessons over nine weeks.

Last year’s sm{ART} Fridays produced more than 1,000 pieces of artwork from at least 800 students. This year’s effort more than doubled, with more than 2,000 students served. The Escondido Alliance for Arts Education started as a group of volunteers, educators, parents and artists who came together to help increase arts education, particularly in lower-income schools.

The alliance has support from numerous groups in addition to the arts partnership and arts center, including: Escondido Municipal Gallery, California Alliance for Arts Education, Georgia’s School of Dance, the Civic Youth Orchestra, Offbeat Brewing Co., county Supervisor Dave Roberts, Artist & Craftsman Supply in Hillcrest, Sempra Energy, Arts Off Broadway, the Escondido Education Foundation, California Young Artists Competition, Patio Playhouse, InnerDancer Performing Arts, Jacqueline Skay, and The David T. and Doris E. Staples Foundation.

For more information, call (858) 254-3100; email escoartsed@yahoo.com; or go to artsed411.org/escondido or on Facebook at [Escondido Alliance for Arts Education](#).

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