

# The Informer

American Canyon Arts Foundation Newsletter, October 2014

## Fall Class Registration—A Mixed Bag

On September 13, we hosted our first Fall Class Registration event. The Gallery & Art Center was filled with Art, Cars, Instructors, and more.

We had several classic cars from Boyz Under the Hood, a great BBQ outside, art and jewelry on sale, raffle prizes, and music courtesy of Ozcat Radio in Vallejo.

It was a great event—everything came together, we were able to fit quite a lot outside and still have a comfortable program. We know how to put on a BBQ and get through all the paperwork and still offer a great meal for the price. This will be very beneficial for future events and programs.



But the real purpose was to sign up students for our fall classes. That part didn't go so well. We had several members sign up, and we will continue promoting and expanding our

offerings. We are even talking about working with the City's Recreation Department to assist in registering and promoting our classes.



But this event also showed that we need to have a *single* person in charge, from surveying prospective students on the types of classes that are desired, to recruiting teachers, scheduling the courses and promoting them in person, by media and more.

We will begin to address this at our next Board meeting, when the Board will review job descriptions and talk about incentive programs to attract more volunteers, including a Class Manager.

Meanwhile, here are some pictures from the event (thank you, member [Paul Hippauf!](#)). More are on our website, [amcanart.org](http://amcanart.org).

And don't forget—tell a friend about our classes! Or better yet, sign up for one yourself!

## THE FOURTH OF JULY PROGRAM MAY ADD A POSTER CONTEST

First there was the "Art Wall." Now the Foundation could be the co-sponsor of a Poster Contest to help promote the City's Fourth of July festivities.

Parks & Community Services Director Creighton Wright, and Fourth of July Committee person, Karina Servente, met with the Board last month to talk about adding a poster art contest. The Foundation would

play a key role in promoting and judging the artwork. The winner would have his/her artwork become the poster for that year, promoting the annual Fourth of July event.

A Board committee is working on the details and you can see the final outcome online, at [www.amcanart.org](http://www.amcanart.org), after the Board takes action this month. Then get ready to paint the winning poster!



## FALL FESTIVAL

OCTOBER 18, 2014

On Saturday, October 18, dozens of community groups and small businesses will come together in the first **Fall Festival in American Canyon**, from 10-3 at the Community Gym.

This is a combination of just about everything, from health issues to veteran services, from home based businesses to a Classic Car Show. We will have food, entertainment and booths of all types and interests. Free to the public.

## Board Member Resigns

**J**an Harris, a Board of Director since 2013, recently resigned from the Board, although she will continue to stay involved.

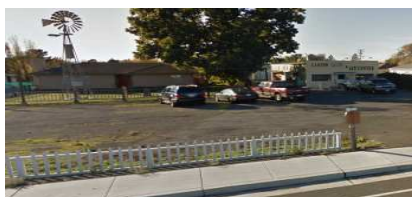
Jan was our 2014 Organizational Award Winner for the City's Volunteer Recognition Program, and managed the Boutique at the Gallery. She and Secretary/Treasurer, **Laura Keiser**, produced our Winterfest fund raiser.

We wish Jan all the luck in the world, and thank her for her service to the Foundation.

## Canyon Gallery & Art Center—The Latest Developments

A number of changes are underway at the Gallery. First, as you can see by the pictures, we are slowly adding a little color and art to the front! Amazing what some plants and a little bark can do, not to mention a little creativity! We are looking at other things that are low-cost but adds a smile to our entry way!

Last month we talked about the possibility of the property selling and what that could mean for us. This month, the latest is that the property is likely to sell, but there may not be any immediate changes. We plan on sitting down with the new owners as soon as possible and try to get a better handle on how long that might really be.



Before—November 2010



After—October 2014

If we are going to be here for a while, then it makes sense to invest a little water and care for the grassy area in front of the house, as well as to take advantage of the area to display sculptures and other outdoor art.

On the inside, we may be teaming up with another artist to share some of the rent. And we can still make the Gallery available on Sundays for a small Church.

We are also using the Gallery area to highlight a Member Artist each month—in September, it was long time member Joan Imlay.

We'll keep you posted.

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

We received two new memberships this month: Jeannie Regan of American Canyon, and Elsbeth "Niki" Begliner of Vallejo. Welcome!

With the end of the year fast approaching, we will send out membership renewal notices in late October. Our goal is to include an application form that is filled out with the info we have on file. All you'll need to do is update the info and send it back with your payment.

We will also include a place for you to add a donation to the Lorraine LaVoie Memorial Scholarship Fund. We want to be able to give more scholarships to our High School Seniors and art grants to our local schools, so your help is greatly appreciated!

### Job Descriptions are Coming!

It has been months in the making, but we are almost ready to review and adopt a limited number of job descriptions, that will better define roles and responsibilities between our volunteers.

And, although we can't offer any salaries, we are also working on ways to say "Thank You" with more than just a smile!

One of this year's goals was to write job descriptions for key positions, particularly relating to the Gallery. The Board will consider draft descriptions for the **Art Center Director** (formerly known as the Gallery Manager); the **Boutique Manager**; the **Gallery Manager** (focused on just the Fine Art Gallery, rather than the entire complex—hence the changed title for the Art Center Director); and the **Class Manager**. The latter two are new roles

that are very much needed, if we are going to have a successful Art Center.

We will also consider descriptions for **Gallery Assistants** (the volunteers that keep the doors open) and an **Event Chair**. There will likely be several Event Chairs, one each for the various special events that we produce, such as Winterfest or Art Extravaganza.

In addition to the descriptions, we will need to clarify who reports to whom, and what authority each position will have. And for some of the positions, we need to talk about what extra incentives we can offer—for example, perhaps we waive space rental charges or sales commissions for the Managers, or give them a free membership.

We'll report on the outcome in next month's Informer.

## Upcoming Board of Directors Meeting

**The next Board meeting will be held Tuesday, October 14, starting at 7:00pm.** All members are free to attend. Below is a summary of some of the main topics to be discussed:

### Continue Discussing a Dues Increase and Other Fees & Charges

Last month we started a discussion and need to decide if we should raise our membership dues for the first time in over 20 years, and any other adjustments to our fees and charges.

### Review Job Descriptions and Incentive Plans

See the article above for more details.

### Suggested Guidelines for the Fourth of July Poster Art Contest

We need to offer feedback to the City on this new project, as well as to commit to being a co-sponsor, along with the successful "Art Wall."

### New Board Member Recruitments

With Jan Harris' resignation, it reminds us that we need to be on the look out for new Board Members. If any member is interested,

please contact any of the current Board members, or email [amcanarts@gmail.com](mailto:amcanarts@gmail.com).

**Gallery Updates** Hear the latest plans for Winterfest and other planned events, as well as discuss the status of the Gallery, in light of Property ownership changes.

*The full Board Agenda Report will be available online at [www.amcanart.org](http://www.amcanart.org). Just look under Member Services and then Governance.*

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