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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PALO ALTO ART CENTER UNDERTAKES SUBSTANTIAL \$7.9 Million TRANSFORMATION TO BE COMPLETED SUMMER 2012**

***ON THE ROAD* PROGRAMS WILL BRING THE ART CENTER'S ACCLAIMED "SEE AND MAKE" APPROACH TO THE ARTS DIRECTLY INTO THE COMMUNITY DURING THE CENTER'S CLOSURE BEGINNING APRIL 3**

**EXHIBITIONS, SITE-SPECIFIC INSTALLATIONS, HANDS-ON ACTIVITIES, FAMILY EVENTS, ART CLASSES AND MORE**

Palo Alto, March 24, 2011 – The nationally acclaimed Palo Alto Art Center will temporarily close its doors to the public on April 4, 2011 through the summer of 2012 to undergo a substantial \$7.9 million transformation of its facilities and re-envisioning of its extensive programs in order to serve a broader public in its mission to engage the community in the arts as both observers and creators through exhibitions, studio arts and education activities.

During the transformation, Bay Area residents will be able to continue to discover, learn, create and inspire by participating in its innovative *On the Road* programs that will bring the Center's popular and acclaimed "see and make" approach to the arts directly into the community. The Center's transformation will kick off with the launch of its *On The Road* program Sunday, April 3, 2-4 pm with a popular Family Day, featuring hands-on activities, art walks and food at the Center, located at 1313 Newell Road, Palo Alto, and admission is free. *On the Road* will continue during the Center's transformation with a variety of activities throughout Palo Alto. For more information about the Palo Alto Art Center, visit [www.cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter) , [www.facebook.com/paloaltoartcenter](http://www.facebook.com/paloaltoartcenter) and [www.twitter.com/paloaltoartctr](http://www.twitter.com/paloaltoartctr) .

"The renovation of the Palo Alto Art Center facility is an opportunity for us to reflect

on our mission and programs, and to re-envision how we can better serve the community that has engaged with us for 40 years in the seeing and making of art of all kinds," says Karen Kienzle, Palo Alto Art Center Director. "During this time our public programming will continue, and we are excited about bringing exhibitions and participatory activities for all ages directly into the community while we ready the Center itself to welcome more of the public next year."

### ***On the Road* Events Bring Palo Alto Art Center's "See and Make" Approach into the Community**

*On the Road* events are designed to give the public opportunities to see art in exhibitions and site-specific art installations, and to make art in a variety of participatory classes, demonstrations and programs for all ages. Spring *On the Road* activities will include the Art Center's new Art Truck at locations throughout the community, *Double-Take*, Patrick Dougherty's beguiling environmental sculpture made of willow branches, on the grounds of the Center at the corner of Embarcadero and Newell Road through July, 2012; an exhibition of self portraits on view in Palo Alto City Hall lobby through April 30, Cultural Kaleidoscope, an exhibition of children's artwork based on Pacific Island themes at the Palo Alto Children's Library, annual Youth Art Exhibition and reception at Palo Alto Unified School District, *Clear Story*, a site-specific installation by Mildred Howard opening in the summer of 2011 (dates and location TBA), art classes at various locations in Palo Alto and more. **[EDITOR NOTE: A schedule of Spring *On the Road* events is located at the end of this news release and updated schedules may be found at [www.cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter) .]**

### **About the Palo Alto Art Center and Transformation**

The Palo Alto Art Center's transformation is inspired by the Center's mission to engage the community in the creative process as both observers and creators through exhibitions and studio and education programs. The transformation will enable the Palo Alto Art Center to expand its programs and services to a broader base while maintaining its high level of quality and enhance its reputation as a leading regional art center.

The Palo Alto Art Center has been one of the country's most popular and unusual facilities since it opened its doors to the public in 1971. Serving 70,000 residents annually, it combines both an internationally acclaimed exhibitions program with studio art, art instruction in painting, drawing, ceramics, glass, media arts, extensive art activities for school children including *Project LOOK!*, publications and a variety of public events including lectures, interpretive programs and meet-the-

artist opportunities.

The Palo Alto Art Center's acclaimed exhibition program brings the work of internationally acclaimed and important emerging artists to the community. The Art Center maintains a strong program of traveling exhibitions and publications, through the support of the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation. *The Miniature Worlds of Bruce Metcalf*; *Big Idea: The Maquettes of Robert Arneson* were organized by the Palo Alto Art Center and traveled throughout the country, to institutions such as The Contemporary Museum in Honolulu and the Racine Art Museum. The Art Center also presented the first exhibition of nationally recognized artist Nathan Oliveira's bronze sculptures, *The Painter's Bronzes*. The 2011-2012 renovation will be the first physical update of the Center since it opened 40 years ago as a retrofit of a former City of Palo Alto government office building. Undertaken by the firm of Mark Cavagnero and Associates, the transformation of the Center will feature:

- Transformed exhibition spaces including raising the ceiling on the main gallery, a refreshed glass gallery
- State-of-the-art gallery lighting.
- Upgraded ventilation and climate systems.
- Reconfigured studio and classroom spaces to better serve the needs of today's artists of all skill levels.
- New landscaping by SWA Group (who designed the living roof on San Francisco's California Academy of Sciences) making outdoor spaces more usable, sustainable and beautiful.
- A new Palo Alto Art Center Gallery Shop
- A special wing dedicated to children and youth with a new dedicated entrance on Newell Road, four classrooms, community exhibition space and street turnaround and drop-off for parents.
- A redesigned entry with lounge area, information kiosks and way-finding signage.
- Fully ADA compliant access for disabled visitors.
- New flooring throughout the Center.
- LEED Silver certification for green design and use of sustainable materials and practices.

Mark Cavagnero Associates is a San Francisco-based architecture firm noted for its design of cultural, education, civic and other community-oriented projects. Established in 1988 with a deep commitment to serving the public good through modern architecture, the firm's work has been recognized with more than 45 awards, including the 2010 Distinguished Practice Award from the American Institute of Architects, California Council. In addition to the Palo Alto Art Center, Cavagnero Associates is currently designing the Mammoth Lakes Courthouse in Mono County, California, and SFJAZZ, a new performance venue in San Francisco.

Recently complete projects include the Community School of Music and the Arts in Mountain View, the renovation of the Oakland Museum of California and the ODC Theater in San Francisco.

The transformation is supported by a capital campaign undertaken by the non-profit Palo Alto Art Center Foundation. Leadership gifts have been made by Ann Bowers, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Brigid S. Barton, The John and Susan Diekman Fund, Enlight Foundation, Judy Koch, Nancy S. Mueller, Dorothy and George Saxe, Larry and Jane Solomon, George O. Wilson, Jr., Yellow Chair Foundation, Yogen and Peggy Dalal, University Art, Teri and Mark Vershel, Robin Welles and Dan Kostenbauder, Lois and Dr. Edward Anderson, Patricia E. Bashaw and Eugene Segre, Caswell Family Foundation, Jeannie Duisenberg and Rich Hlava, Joan and Allan Fisch, Lynn and Jim Gibbons, Patty McGuigan and Richard Bush, Marie and Geoffrey Moore, Barbara and Ken Oshman, Carolyn and William Reller Family, Robin and Jake Reynolds, Susan Rosenberg, Collette and Peter Rothschild and Jan and Vic Schachter as of this release.

The Palo Alto Art Center Foundation supports the mission and goals of the Palo Alto Art Center, promotes unique art experiences and education for people of all ages, and serves as the Art Center's advocates and ambassadors in the community. The Foundation, through its fundraising efforts, enables the Art Center to offer innovative education experiences for children and adults, produce high-profile exhibitions and catalogues, support artists and broaden its audience to serve the community as a truly regional art center.

## **SCHEDULE OF SPRING PALO ALTO ART CENTER *ON THE ROAD* PROGRAMS**

### ***On the Road Family Day***

Sunday, April 3, 2-4 pm

Palo Alto Art Center, 1313 Newell Rd., Palo Alto

Family Day celebrates the kick-off of Palo Alto Art Center's transformation featuring hands-on art experiences, art walks, fun and food. Free admission.

### **Cinco de Mayo Celebration**

Wednesday, May 4, 11 am-Noon Ages 3-5

Children's Library, 1276 Harriet St., Palo Alto

A celebration featuring Mexican-inspired art making led by the Palo Alto Art Center, following the Library's weekly Spanish/English storytelling. Free admission.

### **May Fete Parade & Town Fair**

Saturday, May 7, 10 am-1 pm  
Addison Elementary School, 650 Addison Ave., Palo Alto

Following the annual May Fete Parade, visit the Town Fair for games, entertainment, food and hands-on art at the Palo Alto Art Center table. Free admission.

### **Youth Art Annual Exhibition & Reception**

May 9-31

Reception: Wednesday, May 11, 4:30-7:30 pm

Palo Alto Unified School District, 25 Churchill Ave., Palo Alto

The artistic talents and imaginative spirits of K-12 students of the Palo Alto Unified School District are featured in this extremely popular annual event. The Palo Alto Art Center will be hosting hands-on art making at this exciting reception. Free admission.

### **Cultural Kaleidoscope Exhibition & Reception**

Exhibition: May 9-30

Reception & You Made It! Jamboree: Saturday, May 14, 12-3 pm

City Hall Lobby & Plaza, 250 Hamilton Ave., Palo Alto

An exhibition of youth art inspired by world cultures, Cultural Kaleidoscope features works created by K-5 students during artist residencies in paired classrooms in Palo Alto and East Palo Alto. Free admission

### **Maker Faire Bay Area**

Saturday and Sunday, May 21 & 22, 10 am-6 pm

San Mateo County Event Center, 1346 Saratoga Drive, San Mateo, CA 94403

Palo Alto Art Center participates in the world's largest DIY festival for family-friendly making, creating, crafting and other fun.

### **Art Truck**

The Art Center Art Truck will provide on-going art experiences at events throughout the community. Art activities and locations will be announced frequently via Facebook ([paloaltoartcenter](#)) and Twitter ([@paloaltoartctr](#)), call 650.329.2366 or email [artcenter@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:artcenter@cityofpaloalto.org) .

### **Art Classes**

Art class programs for children and adults will be held at locations throughout Palo Alto. For a full class listing and locations, visit: [www.cityofpaloalto/artcenter](http://www.cityofpaloalto/artcenter) or call 650.329.2366 / email [artcenter@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:artcenter@cityofpaloalto.org) .

For more info about these and other family events, updated *On The Road* activities and schedule and to sign up for the Palo Alto Art Center's Art Alerts, find us online at [www.cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter) [www.facebook.com/paloaltoartcenter](https://www.facebook.com/paloaltoartcenter) and [www.twitter.com/paloaltoartctr](https://www.twitter.com/paloaltoartctr) .

*On the Road* programs are supported by the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation through an Institute of Museum and Library Services Grant. Cultural Kaleidoscope is a program of the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation and is made possible by generous grants from Fenwick & West LLP, Lockheed Martin Space Systems Company, Morrison & Foerster Foundation, National Endowment for the Arts, Palo Alto Community Fund, Palo Alto Weekly Holiday Fund, Rotary Club of Palo Alto, Union Bank Foundation, U.S. Bank, Westly Foundation, and Wells Fargo Foundation.

For more information on Palo Alto Art Center exhibitions, events, art programs and classes: call 650.329.2366 or send an email to [artcenter@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:artcenter@cityofpaloalto.org)

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***The Palo Alto Art Center*** (founded 1971) is a nationally acclaimed, regional visual art center whose exhibition program focuses on documenting—and celebrating—the art and artists of the San Francisco Bay Area. The Center's mission is to foster creative process and thought by forging a greater appreciation and understanding of the visual arts through exhibitions, studio experiences, and related educational programs. The Palo Alto Art Center, Division of Arts and Sciences, City of Palo Alto, is funded in part by support from the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation and the Arts Council Silicon Valley, in partnership with the County of Santa Clara and the California Arts Council. For further information: Phone: 650.329.2366 / Email: [artcenter@cityofpaloalto.org](mailto:artcenter@cityofpaloalto.org) / Website(s): [www.cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter)