

MEDIA CONTACT:  
Scott Horton Communications  
510-735-9200

[Bluescott260@hotmail.com](mailto:Bluescott260@hotmail.com)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**PALO ALTO ART CENTER SETS OCT. 6 RE-OPENING DATE  
AFTER 18-MONTH, \$7.9 MILLION TRANSFORMATION**

**COMMUNITY INVITED TO DAY OF CELEBRATION,  
ACTIVITIES AND EXHIBITIONS**

**ACCLAIMED STUDIO ART CLASSES RESUME IN  
BEAUTIFULLY UPDATED AND RE-DESIGNED SPACES**

Palo Alto, CA, June 13, 2012 – The Palo Alto Art Center will welcome the public back to its newly transformed space at 1313 Newell Road in Palo Alto in a day-long public celebration Saturday, October 6, 2012 that will feature a dedication, art activities, exhibitions, tours, food and more from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. The Art Center will reopen its doors after a substantial \$7.9 million renovation begun in April 2011 and which is the result of a successful public/private partnership between the City of Palo Alto, the Palo Alto Art Center Foundation and numerous private, corporate and government supporters. During its time off-site, the Art Center continued to engage the public in its programs as part of a new *On the Road* series in the community. *On the Road* not only maintained the Art Center's core community, but increased it substantially and the Board and staff look forward to welcoming more of the public than ever when the doors re-open October 6. For information about the Palo Alto Art Center, its programs and the re-opening, visit [www.cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter)

"We are honored to welcome the entire community back to a new and improved Palo Alto Art Center. This landmark renovation project—completed on time and on budget—demonstrates the dedication and hard work of numerous individuals and groups, all working together to improve a vital community resource," says Karen Kienzle, Art Center Director. "The Art Center's time away from the building has been critical in enabling us to reflect upon our mission and dedication to the arts and community. Our *On the Road* programming of engaging art installations throughout the City and our popular art truck has been instrumental in growing our community—just in time to be part of this important celebration."

## **Opening Day Will Feature Dedication, Activities and Community Celebration**

The opening celebration will feature a variety of free hands-on art activities for all ages, demonstrations, and performances. The event will showcase all of the Art Center's programming areas: exhibitions, studios, classes for children. The event will also launch the Art Center's new Gallery Shop—a unique shopping experience for the community. The day's activities include a ribbon-cutting ceremony, refreshments, hands-on art activities for all ages, music and dance performances and art-making demonstrations by adult studio and children's fine art programs faculty.

The re-opening celebration demonstrate the elements that have established the Palo Alto Art Center as a national model of innovative programming, community engagement and a unique “see and make” approach to the arts—high caliber and relevant exhibitions together with a comprehensive schedule of art-making classes and education programs for all ages under one newly transformed roof.

## **Inaugural Exhibition, *Community Creates!*, Partners Bay Area Artists with Public Participation**

The inaugural exhibition of the newly transformed Palo Alto Art Center will be *Community Creates!*, which will partner eight contemporary artists with community members to create installation projects in the new gallery space. The exhibition will present compelling contemporary installations in a wide variety of media created by important emerging and established Bay Area artists. At the same time, by including community participation, the resulting artworks will offer viewers another level of meaning and engagement, through the stories and voices of their own neighbors, friends, children, and colleagues. Artists featured in the exhibition will be **Kathy Aoki, Angela Buening Filo, Paz del la Calzada, Mel Day, Susan O'Malley, Carlos Ramirez, Weston Teruya** and **Lava Thomas**. *Community Creates!* is sponsored by Palantir Technologies, the world's leading data integration and analysis platform. [Editor note: a list of the projects and installations may be found at the end of this release].

## **New Art Center Visual Identity, Logo Winner and Logo Exhibition**

In addition to *Community Creates!*, an exhibition of all of the entries to the Art Center's recent logo competition will be displayed in the Art Center's new Children's Community Gallery space. The Art Center received 204 entries from 157 individuals—from age 5 to 72—for the competition. A jury of five individuals—John Edson, President of Lunar Design; John Stoddard, Senior Designer from IDEO; Matthew Dodder, Senior Designer, 1185 Design; Michael Moon, Director, The Moon Agency; and Karen Kienzle, Art Center Director—selected Colleen Sullivan, member of the Cubberley Artists Studio Program, as the winning designer. The winning design will be displayed with the other entries in a special exhibition that highlights the logo design and development process.

In addition to the jurors' contribution of time to judge the competition, pro bono designers Erik Hatzenbuehler and Filiberto Rodriguez also contributed time, expertise and services.

## **Art Classes and Educational Activities Return Home to Palo Alto Art Center**

The community has long awaited the return of the Palo Alto Art Center's highly-regarded and popular art classes and other educational programs to the Center. During the 18-month renovation, these programs have engaged the community at various off-site locations as part of a unique project called *On the Road*. Palo Alto Art Center literally took its offerings—both “see” and “make”—on the road in a special art truck, in a series of site-specific environmental installations by leading artists including Patrick Dougherty, Mildred Howard and Judith Selby Lang and classes and activities throughout the Peninsula. *On the Road* successfully sustained the Palo Alto Art Center's core community while engaging new participants in all segments of the community.

Art classes, the acclaimed school/docent program Project LOOK! and other events will return to the Art Center following the October 6 re-opening beginning October 7. For a complete schedule, visit [www.cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter)

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

The Palo Alto Art Center's transformation was 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 has enabled the Palo Alto Art Center to expand its programs and services to a broader base while maintaining its high level of quality and enhancing 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 and 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.
- New windows throughout that maintain the open and light-infused spaces while conserving heat, cool and energy.
- 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 S. Bowers, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation, William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, Brigid S. Barton, Sue & John Diekman, Enlight Foundation, Judy Koch, Nancy S. Mueller, Dorothy & George Saxe, Jane & Larry Solomon, George O. Wilson Jr. Charitable Remainder Trust, Yogen & Peggy Dalal, Robin Welles & Dan Kostenbauder, University Art Center, Teri & Mark Vershel, Lois & Edward Anderson, The Hollis L. Caswell Family Foundation, Jan & Vic Schachter in Honor of Ted Cohen, Joan & Allan Fisch, Lynn & Jim Gibbons, Jeannie Duisenberg & Rich Hlava, Richard Bush & Patricia McGuigan, Marie & Geoffrey Moore, In Memory of Ken Oshman by his Family, Peery Foundation, William Reller Family, Robin & Jake Reynolds, The Richardson Family, Susan Rosenberg, Collette & Peter Rothschild, Patricia E. Bashaw & Eugene Segre and numerous anonymous donors.

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.

For more information about the Palo Alto Art Center, its programs and October 6 re-opening, visit [www.cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter](http://www.cityofpaloalto.org/artcenter)

###

### **Palo Alto Art Center *Community Creates!* Exhibition Artists and Projects**

Artist and educator **Kathy Aoki** will create *TeenScapes*, an art installation that explores the daily life of teens through the artistic mediums of painting and installation. Working closely with local teens, Aoki will develop environments that speak to their physical and emotional surroundings. The resulting imagery would be viewed through an inviting—but also mysterious—peep-hole format that will enhance the visual intensity of the scenes.

Palo Alto-based photographer **Angela Buening Filo's** *The Palo Alto Forest* asks the community to consider the question: How do the trees that surround us impact our lives? The project began with an open call to community members to photograph and write a six-word story about a tree in Palo Alto that is meaningful to them. With nearly 300 photos and stories already collected, the resulting artwork will allow viewers to experience the Palo Alto canopy through the eyes of those who live here.

**Paz de la Calzada** will create an engaging sculptural installation featuring plant-like sculptures that appear to be growing directly out of the gallery wall. The sculpted ferns will be crafted by community members out of wire, glue, and patterned fabrics sourced from the community. Over the course of the exhibition, this artificial fern garden will continue to grow and expand, showcasing the relationship between humans and the natural and artificial world, as well as the role patterns play in nature and textiles.

Palo Alto-based **Mel Day** and **Jeanne C. Finley** will present a new two-channel media- and surround-sound installation that explores communal, contemplative, and transitional experiences through the effects of light, sound, sight, and imagination. *Threshold* brings together voices of members of the Threshold Choir—an a capella group trained to sing bedside for patients in hospice and palliative care—with voices from residents at Palo Alto's Lytton Gardens Senior Communities. Jonathan Abel, Consulting Professor, and Michael Wilson, a graduate student at Stanford's Center for Computer Research in Music and Acoustics, process the singers' recorded voices to simulate the reverberant quality of a performance in Stanford's Memorial Church. Through these transformed sounds of song and a video installation that includes a time-lapse sequence of the changing light, sunrise to sunset in the Church sanctuary, Day and Finley's *Threshold* transports the residents of Lytton Gardens and memorializes Lytton residents who have passed away.

**Susan O'Malley's** *Community Advice* project intends to gather Palo Alto's collective wisdom and then reflect it back to the community. O'Malley will work in residence in the community to ask people of all ages two simple questions: "What advice would you give to your eight-

year old self? What advice would you give to your eighty-year old self?" Excerpts from the resulting responses will be translated into a series of ten woodblock text posters that will be displayed throughout the community and in the Art Center gallery—blurring the boundaries between art and daily experience.

Describing his work as a collision of pop culture and cultural heritage, **Carlos Ramirez** will mix the histories of Mesoamerica and the Silicon Valley to create his interactive ceramic installation. Inspired by imagery from the community, Ramirez will create clay molds for 10 in. by 10 in. tiles. Visitors to the gallery will help to create the tiles, then use them to decorate a monumental structure in the gallery inspired by Mesoamerican architecture. Over time, the installation will transform as the unfired tiles will begin to dry, crack, and chip.

**Weston Teruya** will work with the community to explore the history and future of Palo Alto, by working with the public to create paper models of objects significant to them. The resulting installation will recall elements of our built environment, encouraging new perspectives on our surroundings, as well as embedded social interactions and histories. Weston Teruya's work has been fueled by the interest in the way social interactions shape our built environment and the narratives and histories hidden within it.

**Lava Thomas** will create contemporary portraits of veterans at the VA Hospital in Palo Alto through the mediums of drawing and painting. Utilizing interviews, written material, photography and video as source material, Thomas will explore how the war experience has shaped veterans' image of themselves and how health professionals at the VA Hospital have helped to restore their lives.