



## President's Message

It's a brand-new year and the Riverside Art Alliance has so much to look forward to in 2025! But, before I address that, I just want to say: I REALLY MISS YOU.

Although our Membership Committee has recruited an enthusiastic cadre of new members since the start of the 2024-25 year, attendance at our monthly meetings has been noticeably low. Where are you, friends? I miss you and really want to encourage you to come back to our monthly meetings.

Our Program Committee has put together a fabulous selection of presenters representing this year's theme: "The Art of Community". In October, we had Margery Haupt, Deputy Director of Arts and Culture for the City of Riverside's Parks, Recreation and Community Service Department who graciously enlightened us on the City's past, present and future plans for public art projects throughout our community. In November, Rico Alderette, a local iron worker, artist, and entrepreneur, shared with us some of the public art projects he has created in our community, as well as insight into how artists navigate our local marketplace.

The presenters we've highlighted were both educational and exciting. But that's not all you are missing at our meetings: they offer information about volunteer options for our upcoming events, as well as an opportunity to get together with your Art Alliance friends. Our next general meeting is our annual daytime potluck on Thursday, January 16, 2025 at 12 noon at The Cheech. Our speaker will be Drew Oberjuege, Executive Director of Riverside Art Museum, and I can't wait to hear what she has to share with us about what RAM has in store for us. Our Hospitality Committee is asking for those with last names beginning with A-H to bring a sweet treat and last names beginning with I-Z to bring a savory item. I'm a K, so I'm thinking about a baked brie, but I'm open to suggestions.

I encourage all of you to come to our January meeting to find out what we can expect from the Riverside Art Museum, learn about our 10<sup>th</sup> Annal Art Market on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup>, and also catch up with your friends, because we really do miss you! Please don't lose your connection with RAM and Art Alliance. It is a truly precious thing. I know that I personally value it. I look forward to seeing you on January 16<sup>th</sup>!

**Pamela Kaptain, President**

# RIVERSIDE ART MARKET 2025

## SPRING FUNDRAISER ART MARKET



Art Market 2025 is scheduled in White Park on Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> from 10am to 4pm.

This is a special 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this wonderful fundraiser and plans have already been progressing for several months. We currently have 73 artists registered, a record number this early in the registration history. This year will feature lots of delicious food, wine and beer available for purchase and several returning artists offering great entertainment including Stephen Parker and his band, Chimera and the talented dancers of Ballet

Folklorico. Our Children's Pavilion will be filled with fun children's crafts and the Silent Auction will once again offer many works contributed by participating artists for you to bid on. This year Art Market will also feature an expanded Sponsor tent to acknowledge our generous sponsors!

As you know this fundraiser "takes a village" to be successful. There are several ways that you can help:

**\*Become an Art Market Sponsor-** there are many costs associated with this event that is free to the public. We ask you to consider sponsoring the event as this is the avenue that allows us to defray many of the costs of the event and still make a profit that goes to the Riverside Art Museum each year. Look for sponsorship letters to arrive at your home this month and thank you for your generosity!

**\*Become an Art Market Volunteer-**the volunteer committee has been organizing and will begin to recruit this month. We depend on our volunteer for many of the tasks flowing from this event. There are countless opportunities to volunteer particularly on the day of the event with assisting with set up and take down, greeting the public, making rounds throughout the day and many other options. We will start recruiting volunteers this month at our January meeting. Please be generous with your time.

**\*Help recruit an Artist-**participating artists always give positive feedback about this event. If you know an artist who you think would be a good fit, please direct them to register on the Riverside Art Museum website.

**\*Talk up the Art Market 2025 and plan to attend with family and friends.**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of this stellar fundraising event will be a wonderful way to spend the day in the beautiful White Park. Please help make it another successful community event. Thank you,

**Debra Johnson, Kathy Bocian and Ruth Ann Ryan, Co-chairs.**

## ART ALLIANCE PROGRAM



## **Drew Oberjuerge, Executive Director of the Riverside Art Museum**

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The Art Alliance of the Riverside Art Museum is delighted to announce that **Drew Oberjuerge**, Executive Director of the Riverside Art Museum, will be speaking to us at our January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting from 12:00 – 1:30 at the Cheech. Born and raised in the Inland Empire, Drew Oberjuerge has served as the Executive Director of the Riverside Art Museum since 2012. A strong proponent of collaboration and community partnerships, she has led with the RAM Board and staff the transformation of the 67-year-old organization to

strengthen the sustainability of core programs (collections, exhibitions, art education programs, preservation of the museum's historic Julia Morgan building, etc.) while embracing new art practices and establishing an award-winning, affordable-housing artist-in-residency, as well as The Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art & Culture of the Riverside Art Museum (affectionately known as The Cheech). Under her tenure, the Riverside Art Museum has been recognized with awards from the California Association of Museums, Riverside County Probation Department, the City of Riverside, and the Riverside Downtown Partnership.

Prior to joining the Riverside Art Museum, she served as the Founding Director of the Art Works Gallery in downtown Riverside, a center dedicated to wellness and recovery through the arts. Prior to that she worked at the Los Angeles County Museum of Art and the San Diego Chinese Historical Museum.

She holds a Master's degree in Public Administration from the University of Southern California's Sol Price School of Public Policy where she was a Dean's Merit Scholar. She holds a Bachelor of Arts in Italian Literature and in Political Science from the University of California, San Diego. She is a recipient of a 2019 61st Assembly District Woman of Distinction Award and a 2016 Riverside Arts Academy Leadership Award. She is a member of the Inland Empire Regional Leadership Academy Class of 2018 and Leadership Riverside Class of 2015.

She and her husband Oui have a daughter named Oona who loves art as much as her parents.

**Kathy Bocian, Programs**

# **BLUE DOOR MUSEUM STORE**



## Artist of the Month: Jean Aklufi



**Jean Aklufi** never considered herself an artist. Facing retirement from her long career in education, she thought of the kinds of things she enjoyed doing the most in her free time. What came up was doing crafts, making home decorations, Halloween costumes, etc. Her fellow administrators gifted her retirement with lessons and supplies with Riverside glass artist, Judy Davies. These lessons and the wonderful encouragement from Judy, led Jean to feel confidence in colors and glasswork. This positive experience encouraged Jean to explore many more avenues of artistic expression. Joining Art Alliance, becoming familiar with the Riverside Art Museum, taking

advantage of the many adult art classes that were offered at the time, as well as meeting the many artists in Riverside, was a privilege and gift. Through RAM classes with Connie Lynn Pico and Chick Curtis, Jean discovered painting. In her paintings, Jean loves to tell stories about people, places and things.

### Celebrating the Joy of Retirement

The joy of having the time in retirement to play in the field of art has been truly wonderful over the last 15 years. This collection of paintings is of Jean's friends and family having fun in retirement. Whether it is the fulfillment of a teenage dream, the discovery of new activities or doing what they love best, this time of life is pretty special.

**Mindy Griffith,**  
**Blue Door Museum Store**

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## HOSPITALITY: January Luncheon

Luncheon January 16 at The Cheech 12-1:30 meeting to follow. Folks with name A-H bring sweet item I-Z savory. Our wine supply is looking good as of now, but if you have

any extra around the house feel free to bring it so we can keep it looking good!

Thank you,

**Andrea Fry, Hospitality Co-Chair**

## MEMBERSHIP

**Happy New Year to all members and welcome back to Art Alliance after the holiday break!**

Please note the following updates regarding Membership and make note of this change and addition in your directories for future reference...

Welcome to new member...**Kristina (Krissy) Parker!** Krissy joined the Art Alliance because she has "always loved art and her husband is an artist" plus her mom, Elisa Lopez joined Art Alliance last year. She is also interested in hiking, cats, the outdoors, traveling, food, community events, arts and crafts and music. Presently, Krissy works in Special Education in a local school district.

**Kristina (Krissy) Parker**

18536 Pinecone Lane

Riverside 92504

phone: 951-507-6722

email: [kwozniak1126@icloud.com](mailto:kwozniak1126@icloud.com)

**Denise Kraemer's** new address:

589 East Cumberland Street

Upland, CA 91786

**Teresa Chamiec and Patricia Reed**

**Membership Co-Chairs**

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Chair: Patti Funder

Tami Fleming-Maio: President elect

Pam Kaptain: President

Teresa Chamiec & Pat Reed: Membership  
Kathy Bocian: Volunteer coordinator extraordinaire  
Linda Kieding: Chair 2024 nominating committee  
Thanks to the above for volunteering!

We will be contacting Art Alliance members in January to fill the Art Alliance board positions. **Please** answer your phones, texts and or emails. If you are not sure what the jobs are, they are listed on Page 1 of your Art Alliance directory, with job descriptions listed starting on pg. 24- Article 4 of our Policies. Members, if you would like to volunteer for a position, please email me: plmfunder@gmail.com. Those of you who are on the board, please let me know if you would like to stay on the board and in what position.

I am pleased to announce we have two of the appointed positions filled:

Annual Dinner: Anne Deem

Holiday Event: Pat Ryan

Thank you both for volunteering,

**Patti Funder, Chair**

## HOLIDAY LUNCHEON PICTURES





**What a wonderful event!**

## MINUTES: GENERAL MEETING

Minutes from the November 2024 General Meeting were submitted by Patti Funder for Robyn Rogers, Secretary. These will be reviewed and approved at the January meeting. Please email [kathy.m.christmas@gmail.com](mailto:kathy.m.christmas@gmail.com) if you cannot read this file. Thank you.

[https://mcusercontent.com/5bbd2f5501a9dcbfd97adfdade/files/79470531-98a2-dfeb-fb3f-b724641a9040/AA\\_minutes\\_Nov.\\_2024.docx](https://mcusercontent.com/5bbd2f5501a9dcbfd97adfdade/files/79470531-98a2-dfeb-fb3f-b724641a9040/AA_minutes_Nov._2024.docx)

## TREASURER'S REPORT

### **Treasurer's Talk - January, 2025**

Attached are the financial reports for October, November, and December. Both income and expenses in October were focused on Off the Wall. November's income was Holiday Event related and the expenses were mainly for Off the Wall (artist payments) and Programs. December's income shows the Off the Wall reconciliation transfer and the Holiday Event ticket and raffle sales. There were very few expenses in December.

With the reconciliation for Off the Wall completed, the profit was just short of \$38,000. The Board made the motion to donate this \$38,000 to RAM and add \$2,000 extra from our surplus funds. We begin 2025 with a RAM donation of \$40,000. Off the Wall Last Call definitely exceeded all expectations! The final tabulations from our amazing Holiday Event will appear next month. The amount earned from the two raffles is quite impressive.

Pam Balys

[https://mcusercontent.com/5bbd2f5501a9dcbfd97adfdade/files/17767664-e23b-34de-6632-b4c0a41e2952/financials\\_for\\_January\\_2025\\_Newsletter.pdf](https://mcusercontent.com/5bbd2f5501a9dcbfd97adfdade/files/17767664-e23b-34de-6632-b4c0a41e2952/financials_for_January_2025_Newsletter.pdf)

If you are unable to read this file, please contact Kathy Christmas or Pam Balys

# CALENDAR

## Exhibits

- Wild Seeds on the Beach. Now until March 16, 2025 at RAM
- Eve Wood: Mostly Birds (and a Few Humans). Now until March 30, 2025 at RAM.
- Kandy G Lopez: (In)visible Threads. Now until March 2, 2025 at RAM.
- Andrew K. Thompson: The Pleasure of Being Wrong. Now until March 2, 2025 at RAM.
- Keliy Anderson-Staley: Dueling Gestures in the Archive. Now until January 12, 2025 at RAM.
- The Human Interaction is a Beautiful Thing. Now until January 12, 2025 at RAM.
- Yolanda López: Women's Work is Never Done. Now until January 26, 2025 at the Cheech.
- Yolanda López: Portrait of an Artist. Now until January 26, 2025 at the Cheech.
- Amalia Mesa-Bains: Archaeology of Memory. Now until August 3, 2025 at the Cheech.
- Desde los Cielos (From the Heavens). Now until March 16, 2025 at the Cheech.
- Shifting Perspectives: Cheech Collects. Now until May 11, 2025 at the Cheech.

## Meetings

- **Art Alliance General Meeting/Potluck, The Cheech, Thursday, January 16th, 12 noon - 1:30 PM**
- **Art Alliance General Meeting, RAM Julia Morgan Building, Thursday, February 20, 6:00 - 7:30 PM**

## Events

- First Sunday: The Cheech and the Julia Morgan Building, Sunday, February 2, 2025 12:00 - 5:00 PM. Free Admission.
- Riverside Arts Walk: The Cheech and the Julia Morgan Building, Thursday, January 6, 2025, 6:00 – 9:00 PM. Free Admission.

- First Sunday: The Cheech and the Julia Morgan Building, Sunday, March 2, 2025  
12:00 - 5:00 PM. Free Admission.
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Riverside Art Museum - Julia Morgan Building  
3425 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA 92501  
951.684.7111  
[www.riversideartmuseum.org](http://www.riversideartmuseum.org)

The Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art and Culture  
3581 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA 92501

Website: [www.RiversideArtAlliance.org](http://www.RiversideArtAlliance.org)  
Facebook: Art Alliance of the Riverside Art Museum  
Instagram: @RiversideArtAlliance

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