

## The Board's Questions/Concerns

1) The City of Oxnard's Carnegie Art Museum Permanent Collection has over 900 plus specifically So Cal and California Latino paintings, drawings, photographs and prints by artists like Frank Romero, Paul Lauritz, Susan Stinsmuehlen-Amend and John Valadez. Collecting, primarily funded by donors, donors in honor of loved ones, and gifts from artists, began in 1922 and has taken 100 years of effort. This treasury of SoCal and Regional art includes artists that have exhibited and been collected by remarkable museums such as Museum of Contemporary Art San Diego, The Cheech at Riverside Museum of Art, and Smithsonian Museum of American Art.

**Should the residents of Oxnard and Ventura County be deprived of viewing and learning from the CAM Permanent Collection if the City disbands it and dissolves the Museum?**

2) *Arts improve academic performance. Students engaged in arts learning have higher GPAs, standardized test scores, and college-going rates as well as lower drop-out rates. These academic benefits are reaped by students across all socio-economic strata. Yet, the Department of Education reports that access to arts education for students of color is significantly lower than for their white peers. 91% of Americans believe that arts are part of a well-rounded K-12 education.* --Americans for the Arts

Since the shuttering of the Carnegie Art Museum, its popular K-12 grade exhibit tour program, classes and Family Days (all based on experiencing art in person) were lost to community student education. An even greater loss was suffered by area college students who toured the exhibits with their professors, fulfilled individual assignments, or used the Collection to undertake their required Senior Year Capstone Project. Art and Art History faculty from Oxnard College, California State University Channel Islands, Moorpark College and California Lutheran University all severely regret not being able to refer their students to the local Carnegie.

**Is the educational gap the Carnegie Art Museum and the Collection addressed for area students of enough importance for the betterment of the community that it should be retained by the City?**

3) SoCal and Regional Artists would also be gravely impacted by the loss of the Collection and the Carnegie as an area Museum. The closure of the Museum shuts off a significant professional venue in Oxnard and the County for artists to showcase their new art. This is essential to boost artists resumes and advances their careers. For those with art in the Museum Collection, the realization that there is no public access is depressing.

**Should the Collection be preserved as art view locations dwindle so area and SoCal Artists do not lose another quality Museum venue that aids the evolution of their careers?**

5) A few helpful Facts via Americans for the Arts:

- 72% of Americans believe "the arts unify our communities regardless of age, race, and ethnicity."
- 81% say the arts are a "positive experience in a troubled world."
- 86% believe "cultural facilities are important to local business and the economy."
- But only 50% believe that "everyone in their community has equal access to the arts."

**Should the residents of Oxnard and Ventura County be grouped with those that have lesser access to the visual arts?**