

Enriching Lives



Civic Art

PRESS RELEASE

For release Wednesday, April 2, 2008

Contacts:

Rebecca Banyas, Civic Arts Project Manager, L.A. County Arts Commission,
(213) 202-3986, rbanyas@arts.lacounty.gov

Vivian LeTran, Communications Coordinator, L.A. County Arts Commission,
(213) 202-5933, vletran@arts.lacounty.gov

Joel Bellman, Press Deputy, Third Supervisorial District, 213-974-3333,
jbelleman@bos.lacounty.gov

EDITORS PLEASE NOTE: High resolution visuals may be downloaded at the links below:

http://www.lacountyarts.org/civicart/03_Third_District/images/sunsalutations1.jpg

http://www.lacountyarts.org/civicart/03_Third_District/images/sunsalutations2.jpg

http://www.lacountyarts.org/civicart/03_Third_District/images/sunvalley_colorglass_rotunda.jpg

http://www.lacountyarts.org/civicart/03_Third_District/images/sunvalley_colorglass2_rotunda.jpg

http://www.lacountyarts.org/civicart/03_Third_District/images/sunvalley_healthcenter.jpg

http://www.lacountyarts.org/civicart/03_Third_District/images/sunvalley_healthcenter_entry.jpg

http://www.lacountyarts.org/civicart/03_Third_District/images/sunvalley_interiorhall.jpg

Here Comes the Sun: Glass mosaic tile murals by artist Terry Braunstein brighten the new Sun Valley Health Center

Playing on themes of sunlight, warmth and healing, a series of dazzling and festive mosaic murals made from Byzantine glass and handmade ceramic tiles will be unveiled today during the dedication of the new Sun Valley Health Center in east San Fernando Valley.

Multimedia artist Terry Braunstein of Long Beach said she specifically chose the sun as the primary metaphor for the Sun Valley Health Center, since the word "sun" is part of the center's name and the sun also is an image of regeneration and healing. Braunstein wants visitors who enter the facility and its rotunda lobby to immediately feel the center's "warmth."

"From the beginning, the public art element was key in our Sun Valley Health Clinic project," Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky said. "This is a relatively new concept for the County, but we've learned that when you're creating facilities to better serve the public, you want them to be as attractive and welcoming as possible. We need to draw in our clients and customers, not push them away with the kind of cold and sterile institutional buildings we see all too often, where they're all function and no form."

The health center is located at 7223 Fair Avenue in Sun Valley just west of Bob Hope Airport and bordered by Burbank, North Hollywood and Panorama City.

The 10,800 square foot facility is an example of public and private agencies working together to improve the quality of life in the community. The building is a collaboration of Los Angeles County, the UCLA David Geffen School of Medicine and the Northeast Valley Health Corporation, which will operate the facility. The health center is built on the campus of Sun Valley Middle School on land donated by the Los Angeles Unified School District.

Yaroslavsky's office provided \$7.5 million in funding for the County to construct the clinic – \$78,000 of which underwrote the civic art elements in the building's design.

The clinic would improve the quality of life in Sun Valley by offering primary care, counseling, pharmacy, lab, education programs, and WIC (Women, Infants and Children) services to the middle school students and their families and the greater Sun Valley community. Sun Valley remains an industrial area with approximately one-third of its residents uninsured and more than 80% of children living with families who are at or below 200% of the poverty line.

Braunstein's universal artwork is influenced by imagery familiar to Sun Valley's predominantly Latino population. The colors, images of the sun and wall trims that surround the rotunda lobby are often associated with Mexico and South America.

Children and adults can touch and experience the textures and rich colors of the mosaics. Inside the rotunda lobby, two large mosaics – each 50-inches in size and made of glass, ceramic, photo transfers and hand-painted tiles – are strategically placed along the lower wall.

The mosaics combine images of contemporary people in historical landscapes with the sun as the central element, greeting visitors above the front entrance. One mosaic superimposes an image of a little boy hanging from the sun within a Vincent Van Gogh painting. Another image is a photomontage of women and children walking through an altered 17th Century engraving by Matthus Merian. A smaller mosaic, installed above the reception area, depicts a boy and girl playing inside a painting influenced by South American Mayan culture.

Braunstein holds a master's degree in fine arts from the Maryland Institute of Art in Baltimore. Her art has shown in solo shows in the United States and Europe with pieces in the permanent collections of the Museum of Modern Art in New York City, the Victoria and Albert Museum in London, and the Corcoran Gallery of Art in Washington, D.C. Her public art projects include the Anaheim Street Metro Blue Line Station, the Long Beach First Street Façade project and a 50th anniversary sculpture in Cerritos.



The **Los Angeles County Arts Commission**, Laura Zucker, Executive Director, provides leadership in cultural services of all disciplines for the largest county in the United States, encompassing 88 municipalities. In addition to implementing the County's Civic Art Program for capital projects, the Arts Commission provides leadership and staffing to support the regional blueprint for arts education, *Arts for All*; administers a grants program that funds more than 300 nonprofit arts organizations annually; funds the largest arts internship program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Foundation; programs the John Anson Ford Theatres; and, supports the Los Angeles County Cultural Calendar on ExperienceLA.com. The Arts Commission also produces free community programs, including the L.A. Holiday Celebration broadcast nationally, and a year-round music program that funds more than 40 free concerts each year in public sites. The 2007-08 President of the Arts Commission is Rosalind Wyman.

~~###~~