

“Building a Healthier Community through Personal and Professional Example”  
*Peer Recovery Art Project is our continuous campaign to end stigma, revitalize downtown areas, while implementing new strategies for an all-inclusive and, therefore, healthier community.*

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Volume 3 Issue 9

September 2011

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## EXECUTIVE OFFICER NOTES

Summer is on its last leg. The warm weather has blessed us during our open air events as well as during our participation in the downtown Modesto 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday Art Walks. It was a great summer!

Now the Peer Recovery Art Project management team stands firm, patiently awaiting the pending development and subsequent grand opening of our new Arts for Freedom Gallery in downtown Modesto. It was a long-awaited dream for our simple community service arts organization to attract funding. We are moving into new territory combining both festival management and fully operational art gallery management.

PRAP’s schedule is about to amp up and, as we all know, summer is for vacations. It’s time for this writer to bail for awhile; enjoy my beautiful wife and family. It’s my turn to “Get out of Dodge” for a much needed retreat. No phone, no massive hours on the good ol’ laptop; just pure relaxation. Be assured that PRAP’s operation will not come to a halt. In my absence our team will continue to provide art shows in a variety of locations and, once I return, the upcoming months are packed with projects that we are sure you will want to attend.

Let’s kick off our fall season with a bang as we all pull into McHenry Village on Thursday, September 15 for the Taste of the Village event. This year PRAP will host a wine garden with open invitation Art display. Here folks can buy a commemorative wine glass and meet some of Modesto’s most creative artists while sampling fine wines. Remember, PRAP does not charge a fee to artists who wish to display so if this sparks your attention, call our corporate office at 209 505-7553. Call the same number if you’d like to join us

for Pride Fest on Saturday, September 17. Held at Graceada Park, Pride Fest is the place to be for a high energy, fun celebration. The following week PRAP moves to Ceres for the Partnership for Healthy Children Health Fair. Join us there. We are going to have a blast!

Enjoy the September issue as you reflect on the possibilities that lie ahead for those who participate in Peer Recovery Art Project’s upcoming programming. ~John Black, CEO

## MESSAGE OF HOPE:

We are so much more of an organization than just art showings. Our gallery at Barkin’ Dog Grill has featured many artists and our multiple events have offered countless opportunities to



showcase artists’ works. Many of our art friends who began showing at our open invite now participate in other shows on their own. Still, the message we bring is that we are the entry and bridge back to the community and we have new artists and community members still yet to come. We are a first class mutual aid organization that is always improving our game. Yes, an arts organization that is continuously growing, non stagnant, and very much alive with hope. We continue to spread our vision as a high class community service organization as evidenced by our purpose, our people and how we build sustainable relationships in a welcoming atmosphere so people feel they belong. Oh yeah, and our equipment is cool, too! Look out! We will be rolling into your town soon!



## ART SHOW AND PICNIC AT DONNELLY PARK

On July 14, 2011 Peer Recovery Art Project, in collaboration with CNMHC (the Network), held an Art Show/picnic at Donnelly Park, in Turlock, CA. This event was for client/consumers, an opportunity to display and share their arts and crafts. There were two musicians (guitar-folk singers) who entertained us while the event was going on.

For many consumers, this was the first time in months, and in some cases, years, since they have socialized with so many people. This was, without question, a safe environment for all in attendance. Whether by design or just the way things fell into place, there always seemed to be about 40 to 50 people at any given time. This seemed to be just the right size for this event. Folks from all over the Central Valley came and went, all the while 40 to 50 people at a time ate (food courtesy of the Network, Brian being the chief chef), had refreshments and simply enjoyed the perfect weather we had.

As I mingled and greeted people from all over the area, the sound of laughter from the many conversations taking place was in the background. John Black was simply masterful in orchestrating this event. Kudos to Brian Bratcher for contacting all the folks from the Central Valley, his organizational expertise, and for cooking up some mighty fine dogs and burgers. Everything was absolutely perfect.

*Steven McCormick, CNMHC Board Directors*

I agree with Steve in saying that it was a wonderful event. Many people attended and had a great time. Kudos to John and Brian for their hard work and dedication. I look forward to working with you more and having many more events.

It was wonderful to see so many smiling faces. One of the members from San Joaquin County who presented art work was very nervous the week before the event. It took this person a lot of courage to come out for the day. I heard with my own ears at the

end of the event this person telling John what a great day she had and she can't wait for the next show. Well when she went to the van to put away her work she managed to sell one of her pieces out in the parking lot!! She was shocked and excited. Another person displayed his art work at the event and took orders for more art work after the show with the possibility of more work for another agency. This event empowers those who are presenting their work and also for those of us who have different social anxiety issues.

*Til we meet again, Karen Walker*



**SKIP'S MUSIC**

# M Modesto

## Blues After Party SERIES #1

### 2011

<b>Aug 19th \$10.00</b>  <b>MOFO PARTY BAND</b>	<b>Sept 9th \$10.00</b>  <b>ELECTRIC GREASE</b>	<b>Sept 16th \$5.00</b>  <b>DJ SLATE</b>
<b>Aug 26 \$5.00</b>  <b>SHAD HARRIS</b>	 <b>BARKIN' DOG GRILL</b>	<b>SEPT 23 \$5.00</b>  <b>PINKIE</b>

**BARKIN' DOG GRILL**  
940 11th Street Modesto Ca  
All ages 209 572-4321 8pm-11pm

## CHILD-DIRECTED ART OR TEACHER-DIRECTED PROJECTS

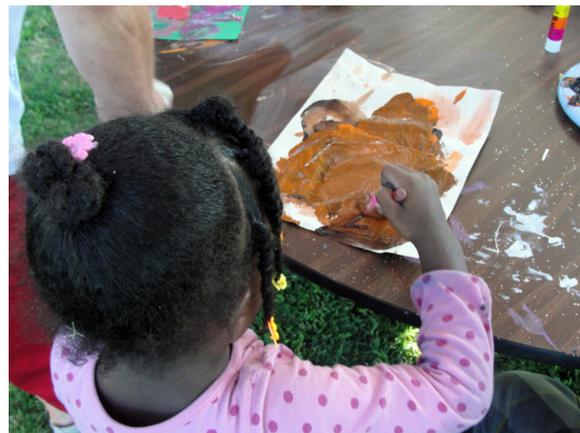
By Betty Barnes, Site Supervisor-Early Childhood Educator

When children have free access to materials in an art center, they have the opportunity to create meaning and purpose. Recently at the West Modesto King Kennedy Center during the Farmers Market, Peer Recovery Art Project displayed eighty five pieces of art from 15 different artists. Young children ages two through twelve had an opportunity to participate with child-directed art. Kathleen McCuistion and I set-up the art supplies, which included paints, paper, scissors, paste, drawing supplies and a bit of dazzle with glitter. Several interesting comments during this wonderful experience from the children included, "I cannot do art, I don't know what to do, or "You know what I want to do when I grow up? I want to be a doctor, an artist, or a teacher." Children continue to amaze me as I allow them to be creative. Art is an outstanding way for children and adults to experience or expand with problem-solving skills and independence, while enhancing their social skills. The afternoon at West Modesto King Kennedy Center was a terrific example of the meaning of "Peer Recovery Art Projects." Keep your eyes and ears open for the new program, which is in the works, "Arts for Freedom Gallery." Thank you, Carole Collins and staff, for allowing us to participate in the Farmers Market!

Arts and crafts are terms that are often viewed as opposite. Hirsch (2004) provides a distinction. The motivation for art comes from within the child. Young children are dealing with autonomy and initiative. They are often not responsive or interested in teacher-directed experiences. This is especially true with art. When art is forced or extrinsically motivated, it may lack meaning, expressiveness, or detail. The art may reflect external expectations, or the autonomous child may purposefully create anything but what was asked for. The approach is reproductive in that the child merely reproduces the teacher's product. By contrast, when the motivation and purpose for art comes from within the child, the artwork reflects personal meaning and purpose.

When children have free access to materials in an art center, they have the opportunity to create meaning and purpose. The approach is productive, not reproductive. In terms of approach, art activities are viewed as developmentally appropriate while crafts are often teacher-directed, product-oriented, and lacking artistic merit. The term **project** is presently used in place of **craft**. Although some would refer to teacher-directed activities as crafts, the terms are not interchangeable. Crafts have artistic merit, and craftspeople work long and hard to produce products, many of which reflect their culture. Crafts may also be functional as with candles,

jewelry, clothing, or wind chimes. Therefore, it would not be fair to use crafts in the same sense of teacher-directed art projects. Instead, teacher-directed projects, rather than crafts are the opposite of child-centered art. Substituting teacher projects for art does children a disservice for it robs them of the opportunity to make self-expressive, self-initiated art.



*At a recent West Modesto King Kennedy Center Farmers Market, Peer Recovery Art Project set up paints, paper, scissors, paste, drawing supplies and glitter for children ages 2-12 to participate in child-directed art.*



Enjoy our first in a series of cartoons by our peer cartoonist

I am pleased to announce that Stanislaus County's MHA Plan Update FY2011-12 document has been submitted to the Department of Mental Health and Oversight Accountability Commission. The Plan Update includes the approved new Innovation and Technological Needs Projects. The document is now posted at [www.stanislausmhsa.com](http://www.stanislausmhsa.com).

Karen Cronian Hurley, MFT

## WHAT PEOPLE ARE SAYING ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE

- **Karlha Davies**

Peer Recovery Art Project Inc. is awesome! Thank you for your continued support of our local river! Hope to see you all out on 9/17 as we Team up for the Tuolumne and show our little river that people in the this community do remember a hidden gem!

- **Ryan Roth Gallo**

Great show at Third Thursday Art Walk! Of all the lovely art we saw, our kids responded most enthusiastically to the pieces in your show - such authenticity! Love it!

- **Betty Barnes**

A special "Thank You" to the entire group of artist at the Modesto Blues Art & Music Festival! The art show and music happened to be the best show yet. More pictures to come when I have the chance to upload. Thanks again to Tammi, Michael, Patricia, Monica, Mark, Scott, Shastiana, Shellie, Nathan, James, Keena, Matt, Nadia, and a giant appreciation to the set-up, and take-down crew!

- **Kina Mok**

The Blues & Art Festival was so fun! And, I think it was the best art show yet. Congratulations Betty and John and everyone who showed art and helped make the event so wonderful. I can't wait for more photos.

**SKIP'S  
MUSIC**

1209 McHenry Ave  
Modesto, CA  
(209) 522-1003  
[www.skipsmusic.com](http://www.skipsmusic.com)

Send your TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS to:  
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Drop us a line or send your request to be included on our list of supporters.

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