




# ommittee for the Arts

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*\* Mission \**

*The Mission of the Elk Grove Committee for the Arts  
is to promote and encourage an awareness and understanding of  
the arts  
and their importance in the development of the cultural and artistic  
identity*

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**"intended as art, presented as such, and ... judged to be art by those qualified in such matters."**

*Grace Glueck,  
New York Times*

### Call for Artwork

- \* FY 2003-04 - Committee purchased 14 pieces of artwork from local area artists that are now displayed in City-owned buildings.
- \* FY 2004-05 - Committee purchased 12 pieces of artwork from local area artists that are now displayed in city-owned buildings.

*GOAL: The Committee would like to continue this activity to add beautification to City buildings and create an art collection for the City of Elk Grove.*

### Art Awareness Recognition

- \* Committee has sought out and identified one local business that goes above and beyond for the arts. The Elk Grove City Council provided this business, PDF Development, with a Proclamation for supporting the arts in March 2005.

*GOAL: Committee would like to establish a tiered recognition program for businesses who support the arts.*

### City Newsletter

- \* In the previous newsletter—Inside Elk Grove—the Committee wrote the “Gallery” section. This highlighted art organizations, events and/or businesses, and people.

*GOAL: The Committee would like to continue to advertise local art events in the City’s newest newsletter.*

### Envision the Arts

- \* The Committee for the Arts held Envision the Arts. This strategic planning session determined art needs and desires in the City of Elk Grove from local residents.

*GOAL: Provided the results to the City Council to provide a better understanding of art needs in the community.*

### Arts & Hors D’oeuvres

- \* Committee created and hosted Arts & Hors D’oeuvres, which displayed the FY 2003-04 artwork purchased. City Council members were available to answer questions from the public.

### City Entrance Sign Project

- \* Committee was asked to review submitted entrance signs and forward their top five recommendations to the City Council.

*GOAL: Committee reviewed submissions and provided them to the City Council.*

### Art Distribution List

- \* Spring 2005 - Committee has done a call for local art organizations in order to create a comprehensive list of various art organizations in Elk Grove.

*GOAL: Committee would like to dialogue and meet with various organizations to determine local art and organization needs.*

## Future of Committee



Since Committee inception, members have felt that art needs in the community are very broad and could use further attention and direction. The Committee identified the following list as areas they are interested in pursuing:

- \* Look into the feasibility of an Art in Public Places Program;
- \* Look into building a Performing & Visual Arts Center (in conjunction with the upcoming Civic Center building) with the

City or through various partnerships with other organizations or art groups;

- \* Create a dedicated area and various places to hang artwork in the new Civic Center;
- \* Request a budget appropriation and the ability to commission a piece of artwork specifically for the Civic Center;
- \* Look into the opportunity to create Art in Parks, i.e., sculptures, interactive art;

- \* Create a tiered recognition program for local businesses and developers that support the arts;
- \* Create a dedicated City Community Grant specifically for arts-related community events or purposes.

The Elk Grove City Council in December 2002 conducted Envision Elk Grove, a comprehensive community plan developed by and for Elk Grove residents. Envision Elk Grove's purpose was to gather information from residents on important issues that affect the community at large.

After extensive resident input, certain topics were recognized as critical to the success of the City. Those areas included Capital Improvements, Economic Development, Environment, Growth and Development, Planning Process, Public Safety, and Transportation. The seven specific areas of discussion became the primary focus of Envision Elk Grove. While critical to the viability and continued high quality of living standards for Elk Grove residents, the topics were broad; covering all aspects of critical infrastructure and economic success of the City.

The Elk Grove Committee for the Arts was pleased with Envision Elk Grove. However, they felt that it was important that art in our community was addressed as well. From that notion, Envision the Arts was created.



*Roberta Smith, Art Critic for the  
New York Times declared  
her guiding dictum to be  
**"If an artist says it's art, it's art."***

## Envision the Arts

Envision the Arts was held to identify art needs in the community through an interactive strategic planning event. The event was created around two primary goals:

- \* The first goal was to solicit valuable information related to the arts from audience members. In order to adequately gather information, questionnaires were created and filled out by audience members throughout the event. The purpose of the questionnaires was to gauge art awareness, involvement, and needs in the community; and
- \* The second goal was to engage audience members in an interactive and fun local event. This occurred through the various art demonstrations that were selected, which included: Pastel, Waltz, Theater, and Music Education.

Results of each of these demonstrations and questionnaire are outlined in the following pages. Envision the Arts had a total of 70 participants.

## Visual Art Demonstration



The Pastel demonstration representing visual art was presented as a teaching lesson. During the event, a local artist demonstrated the art of Pastel while another local artist narrated the medium, concept, and history of Pastel. Specific audience members were then provided the opportunity to learn and practice with Pastel during the presentation.

The medium of Pastel was chosen for its rich history, use, and impact in visual art. Since Pastel is a limestone substance, it is purely pigmented and used in making all fine art paints. It is the most permanent of all media when applied to a permanent ground and properly framed. There is no oil to cause darkening or cracking; no other substance or medium to cause fading or blistering. Pastels from the 16th century exist today, as fresh and alive as the day they were painted. Pastels can come in vibrant colors from soft and subtle to bold and brilliant. Additionally, pastel painting has the stature of oil and watercolor as a major fine art medium. Many of our most renowned living artists have distinguished themselves in Pastel and enriched the world with this beautiful medium.

## Dance Demonstration



The Waltz demonstration, representing Dance was conducted by several professional Viennese Waltz dancers. As stated from the Elk Grove Strauss Festival, "The Waltz (from the German word "walzen," which means to revolve) describes a graceful, romantic couple dance. Developed in central Europe, the Waltz, with its fast whirling of partners held as if in an embrace, shocked polite society when it was first introduced around the 1800s. It became the outstanding ballroom dance of the 19th century."

The Waltz was chosen for a demonstration because the Strauss Festival is held annually in Elk Grove. The Festival, which is considered one of the largest populated events in Elk Grove, has contributed greatly to Elk Grove's cultural diversity.

## Theatre Demonstration



A Youth Theater Workshop representing Theater was conducted in conjunction with Runaway Stage Productions during which youth actors engaged audience members for participation. The demonstrations taught various theater experiences, workshop productions, and stage presentation. They also emphasized youth involvement and stressed the importance of participation and exposure of theater for all age groups.

Since many of the actors in Runaway Stage Productions live in Elk Grove, yet must commute to downtown Sacramento for Theater, they were chosen to point out the need for local facilities and to share their experiences with the participants.

## Music Demonstration

The Sheldon High School Jazz Combination assisted the City with the Music Education demonstration. This demonstration centered on improvisation. Simply put, improvisation stems from improvise, which means to invent, compose, or recite without preparation. The students who participated were extremely talented, handpicked to demonstrate improvisational techniques they had learned as part of their music education.



## Visual Art Questionnaire Results

- ◆ 71% of participants feel it is **Extremely** important for Elk Grove to have a “Visual Arts Center” or a “Performing Arts Center” for artists in the community.
- ◆ 63% of participants feel it is **Extremely** important for them to see opportunities for local artists to display and sell their original artwork in local businesses.
- ◆ 46% of participants feel it is **Very** important for them to take art instruction locally.
- ◆ Specifically at Envision the Arts, audience members possessed over 135+ years of visual art experience.

### The following are specific ideas for public art promotion from participants:

- \* Schedule art shows with local businesses or schools as “parking lot” events.
- \* Need a performing arts center in Elk Grove to host gallery shows.
- \* Need a local visual and performing arts center – critical for community members to learn and grow.
- \* A community art center with space to hang art, promote, and sell art.
- \* Simply provide a venue and the opportunity will be there.
- \* An art center for performing and visual art.
- \* Art center in Elk Grove.
- \* Have a facility similar to the Sacramento Fine Arts Center which has several galleries for juried or non-juried shows. Also, facilities for classes in all levels of experience and all ages with opportunities to show visual artwork.
- \* Art presentations to various groups - to include youth. i.e., hold exhibits, provide art shows in public places, have an art gallery in Old Town.
- \* Need a place to exhibit, a place to learn, and a place to see and enjoy.
- \* Display art whenever possible at stores, offices, schools, libraries, etc.
- \* Have various locations throughout town where art could be displayed depicting our history, creativity, heritage, and growth.
- \* Art center with rotating displays – potentially at businesses.
- \* Make City Hall walls a space for local visual artists (like Citrus Heights City Hall).
- \* More public displays of local artists; utilize local government offices and buildings, as well as schools.
- \* Display local artists work in City Hall and other public buildings on a rotational basis. Have an art gallery in Elk Grove.
- \* Put artists work in City Buildings: i.e., City Hall, Police Department.
- \* Arts center; put art in City facilities.
- \* City Hall; visual art center.
- \* Community Theater; displays in public places.
- \* Place in public places; community center where artists can come together and experienced artists can offer classes for adults and children.
- \* “Art Elk Grove” weekend – maybe in Old Town. Art and Wine activities.
- \* Use local artists for temporary and permanent displays in Elk Grove buildings and businesses. Use the Laguna Town Hall and other City buildings for local displays. Have art displays in the library, changing artists once per month.
- \* Display art in City Hall, Old Town; have local art shows with artists performing.
- \* More displays in public buildings.
- \* Put art at City Hall and police station, in various public places.
- \* Have a selection of artwork displayed in each of our public buildings with information regarding who, where, and how to get involved.
- \* Rent art like the Crocker Art Museum did previously.
- \* More promotions displaying art in areas that the City could promote, i.e. City Hall, public buildings.
- \* Display art at Laguna Town Hall, City Hall, schools, and parks. Have “Art in the Park Day” – include all forms of art and music, have vendors sell art, CDs, food – advertise it with the media and make it family oriented.
- \* Perhaps local businesses could sponsor local artists in public showings.
- \* Run articles portraying local artists in the local newspaper and the Elk Grove Neighbors section of the Sacramento Bee.
- \* Food and wine reception; art in the park.
- \* City Committee. Art in Public Places.
- \* With all of the new growth and building going on in Elk Grove – it should be very easy to have artists contribute to the space.
- \* Art in public places – such as parks, buildings, schools, fairs, and meetings.
- \* Architectural art is another facet we should think about as we grow.

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## Dance Demonstration Questionnaire Results

- ◆ 27% of participants are **Extremely** interested in participating in local Dance companies.
- ◆ 76% of participants have taken dance lessons at some various stage in their life.
- ◆ 47% of participants have attended the Elk Grove Strauss Festival.
- ◆ 43% of participants have attended the Ballet.
- ◆ 10% of participants have attended a performance at the Mondavi Center.

### Regarding the various venues listed above, the following are what participants enjoy most about them:

- \* Diversity in styles of dance. Elk Grove needs more exposure to various styles of dance – outside groups to educate the community about ballet, modern, jazz, and tap. We need a performing arts center in Elk Grove to expand the already existing venues.
- \* Love the fact that all ages can enjoy Strauss Festival - something for the whole family. Also, have season tickets to Sacramento Ballet – enjoy watching the dancers make it look so graceful and easy.
- \* Have superb talent in the community that needs to be showcased.
- \* Storytelling through dance is simply captivating.
- \* Enjoy both music and dancing.
- \* Enjoyed all of the festivals available to Elk Grove residents.
- \* Watching a dance performance is very uplifting and fun; would like to see more dance events in Elk Grove.
- \* Opportunities for artists to express themselves and to allow people to enjoy their form of expression.
- \* Ballet – it can be performed in any country and needs no interpretation.
- \* Strauss Festival – it brought to Elk Grove a form of fine culture.
- \* The creativity of the performances. I would like to see a facility where our children could learn the background and history of dance. I am afraid this is an area that is not being passed through the generations.

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## Theatre Demonstration Questionnaire Results

- ◆ 27% of participants are **Extremely** interested in participating in local Theater groups.
- ◆ 69% of participants consider themselves **Avid Enthusiasts** in regards to Theater.
- ◆ 38% of participants feel that Theater and Theater education is **Somewhat** accessible to members of the community.

### The following are specific plays or musicals that participants would like to see performed in Elk Grove:

- \* Community Theater should have a good mix of classics, moderns, comedies, dramas, and musicals.
- \* Interested in good family age appropriate theater.
- \* Musical comedy is my favorite. Having a place in Elk Grove for this type of performance would be wonderful.
- \* Open to a variety – light, humor, and music.
- \* We need a place for children to learn Theater and develop their skills.
- \* Would love to see wholesome, family oriented plays or musicals in Elk Grove. Would also love to see touring groups with Shakespeare, etc.
- \* At least two “Broadway Type” shows a year. Lots of short productions to include as many “locals” as possible.
- \* Best of Broadway – Nutcracker, Cats, and Annie.
- \* Any of the Broadway musicals.
- \* Broadway style musicals, children’s theater and workshops.
- \* Broadway musicals and children’s programs.

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## Theatre Demonstration Questionnaire Results Continued

- \* Broadway style, family oriented shows. Bringing in a resident company to Elk Grove would be tremendous for the community – the patrons eat out before they go to the Theater. After shows, they shop and find many ways to give back to the community.
- \* Classical musicals and kid's productions.
- \* Oklahoma, Annie, Sound of Music, King and I.
- \* Original new plays and musicals.
- \* Classics – i.e. Music Man, Annie, etc.
- \* Oklahoma, The Music Man, Anne Frank, Cats, Grease, Chorus Line, Annie, Mama Mia, and Oliver.
- \* Cats, Evita, Phantom of the Opera, and Les Misérables.
- \* Any new or classical production.
- \* Anything from Runaway Stage Productions to youth shows to children's theater to Broadway productions.
- \* Runaway Stage is the prototype in producing musical theater. River Stage does very progressive work and is part of the Elk Grove Community. Elk Grove would be a good format for new works.
- \* Elk Grove needs access to theater for audience members. Children's theater workshops are critical for well rounded community members. The city/community is incomplete without venue/opportunity for local actors/dancers/singers/musicians to perform and learn in their own community.
- \* I enjoy it all!
- \* Local Theater – adult and children, performing arts center.
- \* Workshops for children, Broadway, and children's Theater. We need safe, clean fun for our children.
- \* Nothing specific, just having performances in town rather than downtown Sacramento.

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## Music Demonstration Questionnaire Results

- ◆ 56% of participants feel that Music plays an **Extremely** important role in their life.
- ◆ 73% of participants consider themselves **Avid Enthusiasts** in regards to Music.
- ◆ 71% of participants feel that Music plays an **Extremely** important role in the development of our culture.
- ◆ 32% of participants feel that Music education is **Moderately** accessible to members of the community.

### **The following are aspects of Music that participants felt could be enhanced in our community:**

- \* More music for the kids of the community, i.e., orchestra, choral, a community "singing group" perhaps to perform at events, and a youth orchestra.
- \* Community band; a place to practice and perform.
- \* Any opportunity to reach families through music is vital, including lessons, programs, and concerts.
- \* Community symphony, dance band, show orchestra, volunteer chorus, and choir.
- \* Talent contests and community dances.
- \* Definitely need more music performances as well as education. Would love to see music in Elk Grove Park during the summer.
- \* A performing arts facility that is designed for the performing arts with good sound quality. Wouldn't it be great to have a center to listen to jazz or classical music, blues, multi-cultural groups, or individuals?
- \* Offer music in pre-schools— learn how to sing and play instruments. Have high schools perform at concerts in the park for the community. Publicize band reviews, performances, and competitions.
- \* To offer an opportunity to learn music at an earlier age would be beneficial.
- \* Concerts in the park – more music in the schools at an earlier age.
- \* More adult programs through the City to help educate adults.
- \* An arts center for performances instead of numerous small locations.
- \* Community concerts incorporating all forms of music using local musicians.
- \* Musicals, concerts, children's workshops in a safe place for children / family fun.
- \* Music center like the Mondavi Center.
- \* Music at public events.



Special Thanks to John S. Paul who provide Caricature Demonstrations.  
His exceptional talent was demonstrated through his artwork.

For questions or comments related to this report, please contact Kara Myers, Elk Grove City Hall, Committee for the Arts at 916.683.7111, or visit the City's website at [www.elkgrovecity.org](http://www.elkgrovecity.org), under committees.

### **FINAL REPORT**

Committee for the Arts

#### **Committee Members**

Chair, Martin Beal

Vice Chair, Cheryl Griess

Marsha Holmes

Sally Guttridge

Michael Gill

#### **Contact Information**

City of Elk Grove

8400 Laguna Palms Way

Elk Grove, CA 95758

Phone: 916.683.7111

Fax: 916.691.2001

[www.elkgrovecity.org](http://www.elkgrovecity.org)

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