

Youth in Arts®

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CONTACT: Cathy Bowman
(415) 457-4878 ext 150
cathy@youthinarts.org

Celebrating San Rafael Cultural Arts District and Arts Leadership

SAN RAFAEL, CA – As San Rafael celebrates its designation as the cultural heart of Marin County, arts educators are honoring the selection of Lynn Sondag, chair of Dominican University’s art department, as this year’s recipient of the Pamela Levine Arts Education Leadership Award.

The award is given to individuals for exceptional accomplishments in arts education in memory of Youth in Arts’ former Executive Director Pamela Levine. On behalf of YIA’s board and staff, Executive Director Miko Lee will present the award on Oct. 12 at 6 p.m.

The event will be held at the YIA Gallery, 917 C St., as part of the Downtown San Rafael Arts District celebration. The district, home to numerous galleries, artist studios and events, is one of 14 cultural arts districts honored by the state this year.

“We are thrilled to celebrate Lynn, who is an exemplar of arts education and leadership,” Lee said. “Lynn is a driving force in making the arts come alive in San Rafael.”

Sondag is an accomplished watercolorist. Her work has been exhibited at various galleries, including the Triton Museum of Art, the Triangle Gallery, the San Francisco Public Library and in venues in Germany and India. At Dominican University of California, she chairs the Department of Art, Art History and Design.

In San Rafael, Sondag created collaborative murals between homeless members of the Downtown Streets Team and Dominican University students, which were displayed as part of Youth in Arts’ Creative San Rafael program. She also developed an after-school art program for children in the city’s Canal neighborhood and trained Dominican students to serve as instructors.

As a board member of Art Works Downtown, Sondag has been instrumental in the Downtown San Rafael Arts District planning process. She is also an active member in the Marin arts education and the county arts planning processes.

Sondag is the 11th recipient of the Pamela Levine award. Awardees are selected by the Youth in Arts’ board of directors and staff in consultation with Levine’s family.

Founded in 1970, Youth in Arts is a nonprofit organization that provides visual and performing arts programs for PreK-Grade 12 students. Through artist residencies, professional performances, school and community events and intensive out-of-school programs for teens, YIA helps young people of all abilities develop the skills and confidence to share their creative voices. The YIA Gallery is one of the few in the nation dedicated to showcasing student artists. For more information go to: www.youthinarts.org.

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