

ART ALLIANCE of the Riverside Art Museum



Happy February!

The groundhog may be calling for six more weeks of winter, but you'd never know it from the gorgeous weather we've been enjoying. Still, a little shift might be just fine, before we tumble headfirst into the dog days of summer 😊

Debra Johnson has been working tirelessly with the Nominating Committee to put together a thoughtful and strong slate for our new board. I'm so grateful for the care, time, and dedication she's brought to this important process.

Kathy Christmas, Pam Kaptain, Krissy Parker, and their fabulous committee are hard at work planning our **11th Annual Art Market**, and it's shaping up to be a fantastic event. We're also inviting members to participate in the Art Alliance booth, so if you're a maker and would like to contribute, we'd love to include you!

Top Dog Award is back 🐾

This year, we'll be honoring three very special individuals: **Drew Oberjuerge, Todd Wingate, and past Art Alliance President Lucille Arntzen**, along with several others who will be recognized in our "*In Memoriam*" list. I truly hope you'll join us in celebrating these remarkable people. More details are coming soon, with invitations expected in the next few weeks.



A night to remember

Saturday, February 7 was truly special. I was blown away by the incredible turnout for the opening of *Chicano Camera Culture*. Seeing so many people engage with this powerful exhibition, celebrating 60 years of Chicano photographic storytelling, was deeply moving and a beautiful reminder of the camera's role in shaping identity, culture, and voice.

One small ask

RAM is currently in need of magazines (new or used) for educational programs. If you have any to spare, please bring them to the Julia Morgan building, your support makes a real difference.

There is so much to look forward to, and I'm excited about all that's ahead.

Warmly,

Tami Maio

Art Alliance President, 2025–2026

RIVERSIDE ART MARKET



APRIL 11, 2026 • WHITE PARK • RIVERSIDE

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, April 11th, 2026

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

White Park, Riverside

The 11th Annual Riverside Art Market is just 2 months away!

Your Art Market committee is now in high gear! **69 artists** have reserved booths and our food vendors have been engaged for the day including the return of some popular vendors for your eating pleasure. Our entertainment is set with some interesting additions to last year's line up. The Silent Auction will be filled with artwork as well.

This year we will have a booth that features our own Art Alliance member's artwork! If you have artwork to share with us, please contact Kathy Allavie: [951-784-7377](tel:951-784-7377) or kallavie@aol.com.

Thank you to those who have generously sent in sponsorships for the event. To date we have received over **\$12,000**. As you know sponsorships are vital to the help defray the expenses for this big event and contribute greatly to the financial success of Art Market. If you are considering sponsoring, it is not too late. This year's sponsor tent will provide perks for your comfort and enjoyment. You can make your tax-deductible donation via check or online. We are hoping to be able to make a large donation of funds to RAM from the success of this event!

Thanks to all of you who have already volunteered to help the day of the event. As you may remember it takes many volunteer hours to make this wonderful event run smoothly

so please let us know if you are willing to help and we will find an enjoyable job for you.

Save the date, share the information with friends, family, neighbors and on social media and come out to White Park on Saturday, April 11th to be part of the fun!

Thank you,
Kathy Christmas
Pam Kaptain
Krissy Parker

ART ALLIANCE ART MARKET MEMBER TENT

Be creative!

**Help stock our ART ALLIANCE Art Market Tent with artwork
you make!!**

We are trying something new this year! The Art Alliance will have our very own booth at Art Market, filled with art that we create! We are asking you (and your friends and family) if they want to contribute to our sales booth by adding in your artwork. This is designed to be extra profit for the Art Alliance and is therefore a charitable donation on the part of you, our artists and members.

You have 2 ½ months to make or create something for the booth! Ideally it would be small, 6 X 6 or 12 X 12 would be perfect. Crafts are also welcome!

I will be collecting all donations on the first of April.

If you would like to participate, or want to learn more, please contact:

Kathy Allavie [951-784-7377](tel:951-784-7377) or kallavie@aol.com

PROGRAMS

February Speaker: ELLEN FINAN



ELLEN FINAN is a fiber artist and Saori Weaver who lives and works in Desert Hot Springs. She is an expressive, intuitive artist who practices weaving, which is a form of improvisational weaving that emphasizes creativity without strict pre-planning, focusing on individuality and spontaneity in cloth making. Prior to her career as a Fiber Artist, **Ellen** had a full-time career as an English and World History teacher, ultimately concentrating on her artistic career after retiring from teaching.

Her interest in fiber arts can be traced back to her early years when she enjoyed using natural materials and dyed yarns. She hails from New England, where the textile industry was dominant. She weaved field flowers into simple wooden frames, and she embroidered blouses and purses for friends.

But her serious study of weaving began in 2007, when she learned the Saori Philosophy.

She currently teaches Saori weaving through workshops and classes at her Desert Hot Springs studio, and her studio is approved as a certified Saori weaving studio.

She has exhibited her work at RAM (2013, 2014, 2016), the 29 Palms Art Gallery, the La Quinta Museum, the Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, the Desert Art Center in Palm Springs, and Borrego Springs Art Institute.

Teresa Chamiec and Elisa Lopez
Programs Co-chairs

BLUE DOOR MUSEUM STORE - FEATURED ARTIST

CHICK CURTIS



Artist Statement

I was once asked, “Do you have to know how to draw in order to paint?”

My answer was — and still is — no.

Drawing is not a requirement to paint, but it is a skill that can strengthen the work, making it more compelling, expressive, and alive. I continually practice drawing from the live model to render the figure as clearly as possible. The practice itself is a reward.

Moving from figure drawing to composition creates the possibility of narrative. While I may have my own interpretation of what I’ve made, I want viewers to form their own stories based on their personal visual response.

My work draws from live models, photographs I have taken, sketches, memory, and imagination. It tells stories without words — sometimes strange, occasionally humorous, often beautiful — always rooted in joy and wonder.

“Art is oxygen.”

— **Chick Curtis**

Mindy Griffith, Blue Door Museum Store

MEMBERSHIP

We are pleased to welcome **Rhonda Thomale** as our newest member to The Art Alliance. **Rhonda** was with us at our January Potluck meeting with **Pat Ryan**. A friend encouraging interest in Art Alliance; bringing them to a program, inviting them to an event at the museum, an art class, or a fund raiser (the 11th Annual Art Market April 11, 2026) is often all that we need to pique interest and give the membership chairs a chance to encourage new faces and new energy! Please help membership do their job by sharing with friends the joy that art activities bring to you!

Rhonda Thomale

20890 Bakal Dr

Riverside, CA 92508

[\(951\) 235-9078](tel:(951)235-9078)

rhondatomale@gmail.com

Stay tuned for updates on individual members and our assessment of the pilot Christmas ornament donation program. Finally, many thanks to the lovely new members who have stepped up to fill 2026-27 Art Alliance positions for next year!

Kathy Bocian & Elizabeth Lossing

Art Alliance Membership Co-Chairs

NOMINATIONS

The nominations committee is busy putting together a slate of officers for the 2026-2027 year.

Please consider sharing your talents by getting involved in the Art Alliance leadership team. There are a variety of ways you can help.

If you're unable to serve at this time, please share the name of someone who you think would be a great addition to the board.

This year's nominating committee members are: **Krissy Parker, Myra Appel, Pam Kaptain, Tami Maio, and Karen Karlsson** who will be our 2026/27 President.

Thank you for your help in forming a great board for 2026-27!

Debra Johnson, Nominating Chair

[951-283-7707](tel:951-283-7707)

MINUTES: GENERAL MEETING

Minutes from the January 2026 General Meeting were submitted by **Robyn Rogers, Secretary**. These will be reviewed and approved at the February meeting. Please email kathy.m.christmas@gmail.com if you cannot read this file. Thank you.

https://mcusercontent.com/5bbd2f5501a9dcbfd97adfd9e/files/27c4a342-d828-1115-2c7d-0211846216d9/GenMtg_01_15_2026_draft.pdf

Robyn Rogers, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Talk February 2026

Attached are the financials for December 2025. As we ended the 2025 calendar year, December had minimal activity due to the holiday season. The only income was from the Holiday Event, and the few expenses were for the Holiday Event and those remaining from ARToberfest. We closed out December with a balance of \$21,609.07.

As reported in January, ARToberfest profit was \$29,000. \$14,000 of this was already held by RAM via money received in credit card payments. Art Alliance donated the remaining \$15,000 held in our account to RAM in January, and this will show up when the January financials are presented.

With Art Market just two months away, we encourage any of our Art Alliance members who plan to sponsor/donate and have the flexibility of writing a check to do so. Checks go immediately into our Art Alliance account and this will ensure we have adequate funds to cover the expenses incurred with Art Market. For any of our Art Alliance events, please make certain that checks are made out to RAM. The event can then be named on the memo line. We must do it this way as Art Alliance is under RAM's non-profit status.

Checks can be sent directly to RAM or sent/given to Pam Balys.

Pam Balys, Treasurer

CALENDAR

2025 - 2026 Art Alliance Calendar

https://mcusercontent.com/5bbd2f5501a9dcbfd97adfdae/files/76b208fa-100a-2919-3151-fd19cbe8298d/2025_2026_Art_Alliance_Calendar.pdf

Exhibits:

- **Chicano Camera Culture: A Photographic History, 1966 - 2026**, Now until September 6, 2026 at the Cheech
- **A Look at Our Collection: Sandra Rowe**, Now until May 24, 2026 at RAM
- **Black & Brown in the Inland Empire and Beyond**, Now until March 15, 2026 at the Cheech
- **60 Miles East: Riverside's Underground Punk Rock, Hardcore & Ska Scene, from the late 1980s to early 2000**, Now until April 12, 2026 at RAM
- **Noé Montes: Regional History**, Now until April 19, 2026 at RAM
- **Cheech Collects IV**, Now until May 3, 2026 at the Cheech

Meetings

- **Art Alliance General Meeting, February 19, 2025, 6:00 - 7:30 PM at RAM.**
- **Art Alliance General Meeting, March 19, 2026, 6:00 - 7:30 PM at RAM.**

Events

- Fourth Fridays with 60 Mile East, February 27, 7:00 - 10:00 p.m., Julia Morgan Building
- First Sunday: The Cheech and the Julia Morgan Building, Sunday, March 1st, 2026, 12:00 - 5:00 PM. Free Admission
- Riverside Arts Walk: The Cheech and the Julia Morgan Building, Thursday, March 5th, 2026, 6:00 - 9:00 PM. Free Admission.

Classes: Sign Up On Line

- **Adult Classes:**
 - Adult Mixed Media Classes at RAM, Saturdays 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM, \$40.50 - \$45 Single Class,

- Thursday Night Art Series at RAM, 5:30 PM - 7:30 PM, \$67.50 - \$75.00 three class session.
- Sunday Afternoon Drawing Classes at RAM, 12:30 PM - 3:00 PM, \$157.50 - \$175.00 for six sessions.
- **Youth Classes:**
 - Spring Break: Art Jam, March 23rd - 27th, Morning Classes: 9 AM - 12 Noon, Afternoon Classes: 1 PM - 4 PM, Early Bird Price (Sign up by March 13th, 2026: \$202.50 - \$225/week, \$45 - \$50/session), Regular Price: (Sign up March 14, 2026 and after \$247.50 - \$275/week, \$54 - \$60/session).
 - New!! Exploring Together - Toddler & Adult Art Program (ages 18 months - 4 years), 2nd Saturday of every month: February 14th, March 14th, April 11th, May 9th, June 13th, July 11th & August 8th, 10:00 - 11:00 AM, \$25 each.
 - Saturday Art Club (ages 5 - 12), Saturdays, 10 - 11:00 AM, 5 - class session: \$72 - \$80.
 - Home School Classes (ages 6 - 15), Tues., 10 - 11:30 AM. 5-class session: \$99 - \$110.
 - After School Classes (ages 6 - 15), Tues., Wed. or Thurs. 4 - 5:30 PM. 5-class session: \$99 - \$110.



Riverside Art Museum - Julia Morgan Building
 3425 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA 92501
951.684.7111
www.riversideartmuseum.org

The Cheech Marin Center for Chicano Art and Culture
 3581 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA 92501

Website: www.RiversideArtAlliance.org
 Facebook: Art Alliance of the Riverside Art Museum
 Instagram: @RiversideArtAlliance

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