

ART ALLIANCE of the Riverside Art Museum



A Message from the Art Alliance President

Happy New Year! I am truly excited to welcome 2026 and all the wonderful opportunities it holds for the Art Alliance. We closed out 2025 on a high note with engaging pre-meeting programs, and I'm thrilled to share that we already have a fantastic lineup planned for the year ahead. 2026 is shaping up to be another exceptional year!

Thanks to the incredible efforts of **Patti Funder** and her dedicated ARToberfest team, we proudly donated approximately \$29,000 to RAM from event proceeds—an amazing

accomplishment!

Our Holiday Luncheon was also a tremendous success, filled with festive spirit, creativity, and gingerbread charm. Be sure to read more later in this newsletter for all the delightful details!

Looking ahead, one of our biggest and most exciting events is just a few short months away—our 11th Annual Art Market! **Kathy Christmas, Pam Kaptain, Krissy Parker** & their committee are already hard at work, and we encourage everyone to get involved and sign up to help wherever you can. It truly takes a village, and your participation makes all the difference.

Be sure to stop by the BD Store at RAM as well. With the holiday décor packed away, **Kathryn Baca Llano** and her amazing elves have transformed the space into a fresh, colorful new look. This little store generated an impressive \$22,000 this past year, what a success!

Meanwhile, **Debra Johnson** and her nominating committee are hard at work filling board and appointed positions to ensure strong leadership as we move forward.

Thank you all for your continued passion, generosity, and commitment. I can't wait to see what we accomplish together in 2026, it's going to be an inspiring year!

Warmly,

Tami Maio

President 2025-2026, Art Alliance of the Riverside Art Museum

HOSPITALITY

Feeling a bit downcast now that the holiday festivities have ended and the Southern California winter has officially started? Come celebrate the beginning of a new year with the annual Art Alliance potluck luncheon & General Meeting on Thursday, January 15th. This year we will meet in the Art Alliance Gallery, Riverside Art Museum, from 12 noon – 1:30. Please bring your favorite dish that you enjoy sharing at a potluck, or perhaps you might decide to try out a new recipe. **To balance the variety of savory and sweet dishes, we ask that attendees whose last names begin with the letters A – M bring a salad, casserole or quiche. And for attendees whose names begin with N-Z we request that you bring a sweet treat, perhaps a cake, cookies or other tasty dessert**

that piques your fancy. Beverages, including iced tea and wine (white only), will be served. Plates, cutlery and glasses will be provided, but you will want to bring a serving utensil for your dish.

Myra Appel, Elisa Lopez, Andy Schulte, and Debi Vari
Hospitality Committee

ART MARKET



APRIL 11, 2026 • WHITE PARK • RIVERSIDE

SAVE THE DATE

Saturday, April 11th, 2026

10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

White Park, Riverside

Planning continues for Art Market 2026! 62 artists have registered and 4 food vendors have already agreed to participate. Beer and wine will be available. Our Children's Pavilion will be filled with fun children's crafts and the Silent Auction will once again offer many works contributed by participating artists for you to bid on. The sponsor tent will once again be available to all those that sponsor.

It takes **ALL OF US** to make this event a success! Here are several ways you can help:

***Become an Art Market Sponsor** - there are many costs associated with this event that is free to the public. We ask you to consider sponsoring the event as this is the avenue that allows us to defray many of the costs of the event and still make a profit that goes to the Riverside Art Museum each year. Look for sponsorship letters to arrive at your home this month and thank you for your generosity. **BRING YOUR SPONSORSHIP CHECK**

TO THE NEXT MEETING!

***Become an Art Market Volunteer** - the volunteer committee has been organizing and will begin to recruit this month. We depend on our volunteer for many of the tasks flowing from this event. There are countless opportunities to volunteer particularly on the day of the event with assisting with set up and take down, greeting the public, making rounds throughout the day and many other options. We will start recruiting volunteers this month at our January meeting. Please be generous with your time.

***Help recruit an Artist - participating artists always give positive feedback about this event.** If you know an artist who you think would be a good fit, please direct them to register on the Riverside Art Museum website.

***Talk up the Art Market 2026 and plan to attend with family and friends.** Like, comment and share social media posts!

Please help make it another successful community event.

Thank you,

Thank you,

Kathy Christmas

Pam Kaptain

Krissy Parker

PROGRAMS

January Speaker:

The speaker for the January general meeting for the Art Alliance will be **Valerie Found**, Interim Executive Director of Riverside Art Museum. **Valerie** has been involved with Riverside Art Museum (RAM) for approximately thirteen and a half years in various roles from Grant Writer to Development Associate, Development Manager, Director of Community and Resource Development before taking on the role of Interim Executive Director. She hails from Canada where she studied at the Georgian College--Department of Arts and Technology.

Looking forward to seeing all of you at the luncheon meeting!

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

Happy New Year! We are hoping that the energy and fresh approaches epitomized by our new members are a part of your New Year's Resolutions.

Elizabeth Lossing and I will be contacting members to help resolve any issues with RAM membership, which is separate from Art Alliance membership. Our goal is to alert members (we all are inundated with emails and paper) and help with any red tape. Thank you in advance for paying attention to our queries.

Our new members of 2024-25 have been busy! We had two events creating ornaments: **Denise Kraemer** led us in origami blooms, and **Emmanuelle Reynolds** led a resin class for hearts (For the Love of Art). Fun and getting to know each other better were the best outcomes of these meetings. Then we decorated the tree in November and disassembled Holiday décor in January. What an amazing group of people who pitched in! Thank you.

The tree (as always) was beautiful and reflected **Tami's** theme: For the Love of Art.

Besides the individual ornaments by new members, we piloted a 'decorate the tree' ornament. The ornament (a laser cut raincross) can be purchased for \$20 at the front desk and all of the money goes directly to RAM classes and activities. New member **Sharene McIntyre** created and donated these.

Please join us in welcoming new member **Rhonda Thomale** as the first 2026 new member to Art Alliance! More background on all of our members next month!

Thank you,

Kathy Bocian & Elizabeth Lossing
Art Alliance Membership Co-Chairs



HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

Holiday Cheer & Gingerbread Magic Art Alliance Holiday Luncheon Recap

The Art Alliance's Holiday Luncheon brought the Gingerbread Houses and Festive Christmas Spirit theme to life at the Riverside Woman's Clubhouse. The room sparkled with holiday cheer, featuring beautifully coordinated décor, charming table settings, and 15 creatively decorated gingerbread house centerpieces, each one unique and full of whimsy. Festive photo backdrops and a giant inflatable gingerbread house on center stage added extra fun to the celebration.

Guests enjoyed holiday music by **Mike McNichols**, followed by a memorable performance from the **Inland Empire Choir**, whose harmonies filled the room with beloved Christmas carols. Attendance was strong, with 68–69 members and guests joining in the festivities.

The buffet-style luncheon, catered by **McGrath's Catering**, featured Chicken Marsala, Cannelloni Florentine, wild rice medley, mixed greens with feta, fresh fruit, rolls, and a cream cheesecake topped with wild berries. Adding to the merriment were festive cocktails and wine served by our amazing bartenders, **Steve Maio and Emmanuelle Reynolds**.

The afternoon concluded with 25 opportunity items, plus door prizes, and the popular gingerbread house centerpieces, joyfully taken home by lucky winners. The event was a heartwarming celebration of the season and the wonderful spirit of our members.

Special thanks to **Kathy Christmas**, who went above and beyond to help make this event a success. We are also deeply grateful to the members who donated opportunity items and those who went out searching for them, as well as everyone who helped with setup, and especially those who stayed afterward to assist with cleanup. Thank you to **Beth Kollmyer** for her continued support. Your time, generosity, and teamwork truly made this luncheon a success.

Patricia Reed, Pat Ryan & Tami Maio
Holiday Luncheon Co-Chairs



NOMINATIONS

The new year is upon us which means it's time to begin planning for our 2026-2027 year. The nominations committee has been formed and approved by this year's board so we are busy putting together a slate of officers for this upcoming year.

Please consider serving in a board position; a new member recently shared with me how connected she feels now to the work of the Art Alliance by serving on the board. There are many positions to consider; please check your Art Alliance directory for a list of opportunities in which you might serve. If you're unable to serve, please let us know the name of someone who you think would be a wonderful 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

Subscribe

Past Issues

Minutes from the November 2025 General Meeting were submitted by **Robyn Rogers, Secretary**. These will be reviewed and approved at the January meeting. Please email kathy.m.christmas@gmail.com if you cannot read this file. Thank you.

https://mcusercontent.com/5bbd2f5501a9dcbfd97adfdade/files/efb4b5c9-9384-94f2-1a67-a2d17e71c7b4/GenMtg_11_20_2025_draft.pdf

Robyn Rogers, Secretary

TREASURER'S REPORT

Treasurer's Talk - January 2026

Attached are the Financials for October and November 2025. Both income and expenses in October centered around ARToberfest. The income for November was for the Holiday Event and the expenses a mixture of ARToberfest, Holiday Event, and Membership. The closing balance as of 11/30/2025 is \$20,668.41

Artoberfest was reconciled in December, and the profit was just short of \$29,000.

Congratulations to chair Patti Funder, her team, and all the Art Alliance volunteers (and their husbands) who worked so tirelessly to make this such a successful event. RAM currently holds \$14,000 for the credit card payments received for ARToberfest. The Art Alliance Board approved giving RAM the additional \$15,000 to equal the \$29,000 profit. A great way to start off 2026 with our donation.

Pam Balys, Treasurer

https://mcusercontent.com/5bbd2f5501a9dcbfd97adfdade/files/bb999fa8-8db3-c768-c7ff-78708630a919/October_November_Financials.pdf

CALENDAR

2025 - 2026 Art Alliance Calendar

<https://mcusercontent.com/5bbd2f5501a9dcbfd97adfdade/files/76b208fa-100a-2919->

Exhibits

- **Soy de Tejas: A Statewide Survey of Latinx Art**, Now until January 11, 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 Monte's: 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, January 18, 2026, 12:00 - 1:30 PM at RAM.**
- **Art Alliance General Meeting, February 19, 2025, 6:00 - 7:30 PM at RAM.**

Events

- **First Sunday: The Cheech and the Julia Morgan Building**, Sunday, February 1st, 2026, 12:00 - 5:00 PM. Free Admission
- **Riverside Arts Walk: The Cheech and the Julia Morgan Building**, Thursday, February 5th, 2026, 6:00 - 9:00 PM. Free Admission.
- **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

- **Youth Classes:**
 - **After School Classes** (ages 6 - 15), Tues., Wed. or Thurs. 4 - 5:30 PM. 5-class session: \$99 - \$110.
 - **Home School Classes** (ages 6 - 15), Tues., 10 - 11:30 AM. 5-class session: \$99 - \$110.
 - **Saturday Art Club** (ages 5 - 12), Saturdays, 10 - 11:00 AM, 5 - class session: \$72 - \$80.
 - **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, \$20 each.
 - **Spring Break: Art Jam, 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.



Riverside Art Museum - Julia Morgan Building
3425 Mission Inn Avenue, Riverside, CA 92501
[951.684.7111](tel: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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