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## P R E S S   R E L E A S E

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## Santa Barbara County Arts Commission and UC Santa Barbara Receive \$43,500 Grant From the California Arts Council for Collaborative Arts Initiative

(Isla Vista, CA) - The Santa Barbara County Arts Commission and University of California Santa Barbara (UCSB) Visual Arts Department received a Creative California Communities Grant Award in the amount of \$43,500 for an innovative public art initiative entitled *LightWorks: Isla Vista*. Local and California-based artists will be commissioned to create temporary sculptural installations designed to transform the central parks of downtown Isla Vista into illuminated spaces for art, performance, and evening engagement by the community. The project is scheduled to start in the Spring of 2016.

UCSB Professor, Kim Yasuda initiated *LightWorks* to engage the role of artists in reimagining the underutilized public spaces of downtown Isla Vista. *LightWorks* is part of a long-term community development effort led by a strategic group of partners and agencies, including the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission, UCSB Arts, Office of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Supervisorial District, the Santa Barbara Foundation, Isla Vista Recreation and Parks District, Isla Vista Community Network, UCSB Materials Research Laboratory, and the Santa Barbara Center for Art, Science and Technology.

The Santa Barbara County Arts Commission has a decade-long history of successful collaboration with UCSB in developing programs and projects that expand arts outreach to the Community. In cooperation with UCSB and Isla Vista community stakeholders, the Arts Commission's new Visual Arts Coordinator and Curator of Collections, Maiza Hixson, will facilitate the Request for Proposals (RFP) process for California-based artist proposals and assist with community outreach. The goal is to link this Isla Vista public art initiative with the resources, artists, and audiences of the Central Coast. The RFP will be released in November 2015, followed by a selection and interview process that assures broad community representation and engagement. Selected artists will be invited to develop their site-specific works in Isla Vista beginning in January 2016.

Regarding the *LightWorks* project in her district, 3<sup>rd</sup> District Supervisor Doreen Farr said, "This project fits in perfectly with the County's overall goal and established multi-phase plan of enhancing lighting throughout the community for both aesthetic and safety reasons. The *LightWorks: Isla Vista* project is a vital part of a larger effort to improve our community. The project will not only provide a creative solution to lighting improvements, but will also remind us of the uniqueness of IV and reinforce pride in this community."

Ginny Brush, Arts Commission Executive Director adds, "This Creative California Communities grant from the Arts Council will provide an extraordinary opportunity for the artists of our region to create significant public works of art that will add cultural vitality to the Central Coast."

For additional information on the *LightWorks: Isla Vista* project, please contact Maiza Hixson, Visual Arts Coordinator/Curator of Collections at 805-568-3994 or by email at [maiza@sartscommission.org](mailto:maiza@sartscommission.org). More information on the California Arts Council's Creative California Community grants is available at <http://www.cac.ca.gov/programs/ccc.php>.

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