

Enriching Lives



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A photo of Anne Marie Karlsen is available by request from Linda Chiavaroli.

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## **Artist Selected for Acton-Agua Dulce Civic Art Project**

Local artist **Anne Marie Karlsen** has been commissioned by the County of Los Angeles to create permanent artwork for the new Acton-Agua Dulce Library, due to be constructed in 2008. The Acton-Agua Dulce Library Public Art Committee has awarded \$64,000 to Karlsen for the project.

The new 10,000 sq. ft. library will be located on the east side of Crown Valley Road, west of the 14 Freeway. The Acton-Agua Dulce Library will have areas for book stacks; reading and storytelling areas; circulation and information desks; meeting and study group rooms; homework center; computer stations; staff facilities and offices; public and staff restrooms. In addition there will be landscaped areas and 50 parking spaces. Tetra Design Inc., based in Los Angeles, will design the library, including the interior and landscaped spaces.

Karlsen will collaborate with Tetra Design to create a multi-faceted interior artwork. The artist proposes combining vibrant color with images that both hark back to the region's rich history and also imagine the exciting future of the area. Karlsen's approach to incorporating many representations of time in her artwork is well suited to the rich history and forward-thinking energy of the Acton-Agua Dulce area. Kathy Howald, Public Art Committee Chairperson, cited the visual splendor of Karlsen's work as a reason the artist was chosen as well as "the intellectual aspect that would capture the imagination of old and young alike."

"This talented artist will add great beauty and elegance to the library and make it an inviting gathering place for the whole community." said Michael D. Antonovich, Los Angeles County Supervisor whose Fifth District includes Acton-Agua Dulce.

Los Angeles resident **Anne Marie Karlsen** earned her MFA from the University of Wisconsin, and has been teaching art in southern California since 1979 at UCLA, and currently at Santa Monica College. She works in a wide variety of media including glass, ceramics, porcelain, metal and vinyl. Since 1990 she has been commissioned for numerous public projects

throughout the country, including the FBI Headquarters in Chicago; Paseo Colorado Development, Pasadena; North Hollywood Red Line station; and Trailside Elementary School in Anchorage, Alaska. Her work is represented in many museums throughout California and the U.S., and internationally in the Kulturverwaltung Stadt Salzburg, Austria.

The selection panel included Kathleen M. Howald, Chair, Acton-Agua Dulce Library Public Art Committee and Committee Members Judy Bartlett , Linda Ewing, Alene Griffin, Lee Jennings, Sandy Madsen, Sheri Mercier, and Leona Sexton; County Librarian Margaret Todd; Valencia Regional Office County Librarian Josie Reyes; architect Kirk Shimazu of Tetra Design; and Arts Commission project managers Rebecca Banyas and Karen Rapp.

In accordance with the Civic Art Policy adopted by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors in 2004, one percent of the library's construction costs are allocated for the incorporation of civic art. The Los Angeles County Art Commission's Civic Art Program administers all aspects of the civic art allocation in concert with County constituents and community stakeholders.

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The **Los Angeles County Arts Commission**, Laura Zucker, Executive Director, provides leadership in cultural services of all disciplines for the largest county in the United States, encompassing 88 municipalities. In addition to coordinating the Civic Art program, the Arts Commission provides leadership and staffing to support the regional blueprint for arts education, *Arts for All*; administers a grants program that funds more than 250 nonprofit arts organizations annually; funds the largest arts internship program in the country in conjunction with the Getty Foundation, programs the John Anson Ford Theatres and supports the Los Angeles County Cultural Calendar on ExperienceLA.com. The Commission also produces free community programs, including the L.A. Holiday Celebration broadcast nationally, and a year-round music program that funds more than 60 free concerts each year in public sites. The 2006-2007 President of the Arts Commission is Marjorie Lyte.