



Contact: Katrina Carl
SBMA Public Relations Manager
805.884.6430
kcarl@sbma.net

or

Patsy Hicks
SBMA Assistant Director of Education
805.884.6432
phicks@sbma.net

or

Bryan Kerr
PAL Coordinator
805.962.5560
bkerr@sbgpd.com



Museum and Police Unite to Provide Youth an Alternative to Streets

SBMA/PAL Partnership Creates After School Art Outreach

October 17, 2007— In response to the ongoing concern regarding increased youth violence in the local community, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art (SBMA) and The Santa Barbara Police Activities League (PAL) have joined forces in developing an after school art program for young people that is a positive and productive alternative to the streets.

SBMA approached PAL in response to the increased youth violence that occurred during the 2006-2007 school year and found in them a willing and enthusiastic partner. PAL suggested that the program would be most beneficial to start with fifth and sixth graders with the hope that by reaching out to younger students, an enthusiasm for art and a sense of belonging and

accomplishment could be instilled at a relatively early age and further developed through junior high and beyond.

Participants of the ten-week, trimester program at SBMA's Ridley-Tree Education Center at McCormick House are introduced to a variety of media and create art that builds on their increasing skills and understanding. Projects coordinate with the Santa Barbara Museum of Art's permanent collection and special exhibitions, with this year's focus on the theme of "identity," based upon the Museum's upcoming exhibition *Identities* opening November 3. Self-portraits, mapping, book art, and even clothing design encompass part of the curriculum that demonstrates the stimulating connections between art, history, culture, science and the world around us. The program concludes with a trip to the Museum and a reception for the students and their families.

The public will have the opportunity to view the student participants' art during both of SBMA's upcoming Free Family Days – Dia de los Muertos on October 28, 2007 and Chinese New Year on February 10, 2008.

"The goals of this program are to introduce students to the elements of art, to expose them to a variety of styles and media, to increase their confidence as artists and as Museum-goers, and to extend that sense of comfort and belonging to their families," states Patsy Hicks, SBMA's Assistant Director of Education. "We hope that this first introduction to art and museums will lead to a life-long engagement."

The program began October 1 and meets after school Monday through Friday, 3-4 pm. PAL, the major funder of this program, identifies interested students in the Santa Barbara elementary schools and provides transportation for students and their families.

The Museum's art teachers act as primary instructors for the program with students from Santa Barbara High School's Visual Arts and Design Academy volunteering as assistants. The young adult helpers, many of whom are bilingual in Spanish and English, both aid the teachers and serve as mentors and role models for the younger students. They receive community service credit for their involvement and have an opportunity to learn about curating, installing, and de-installing a student exhibition.

The Santa Barbara Museum of Art is a privately funded, not-for-profit institution that provides internationally recognized collections and exhibitions and a broad array of cultural and educational activities as well as travel opportunities around the world.

The Santa Barbara Police Activities League strives to provide quality educational, cultural and athletic programming for the youth of Santa Barbara and build positive relationships between the Police Department and all members of the community.

Santa Barbara Museum of Art, 1130 State Street, Santa Barbara, CA. Open Tuesday - Sunday 11 am to 5 pm. Closed Monday. Free every Sunday. 805.963.4364 www.sbma.net

***Santa Barbara Police Activites League, 222 E Anapamu St. Suite 21 Santa Barbara, CA 93101.
Open Monday-Friday 9am-5pm. 805.962.5560 www.santabarbarapal.com***