



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Elizabeth Sands
Publicist
530-320-8957**

NEW TRUSTEES BRING VARIED BACKGROUNDS TO THE ARTS COUNCIL OF PLACER COUNTY ARTIST, ACCOUNTANT, EDUCATOR AND PHILANTHROPIST JOIN PLACER ARTS BOARD

As part of our growth and expansion to meet the future arts needs in Placer County, the Arts Council of Placer County welcomed four new members to the Board of Trustees January 18, 2016.

"The new members will provide valuable community representation, expertise and energy to help guide PlacerArts as we expand our programs, services and resources throughout Placer County," commented Board Chair John Marin.

In the coming year, PlacerArts will continue to expand the Board with diverse individuals as the organization begins to grow in new directions to enhance the arts in Placer County as the designated State-Local Partner of the California Arts Council. Members of the all-volunteer Board serve two-year terms.

"These additions now bring a mix of individuals with the knowledge, skills and time to be actively involved and serve all of PlacerArts," commented Executive Director Bob Reich.

Keith Vogt, a resident of Lincoln, brings a broad background to PlacerArts. He holds degrees in Education and Educational Administration and was a teacher and principal before moving into design/marketing/IT, including a five-year California Technology Project, a collaborative between the California Department of Education, California State University, University of California and the 58 County Offices of Education. More recently, he produced Jazz Concerts at Northstar in Tahoe, and currently is the President of the Tahoe Regional Arts Foundation, leading the Board of Directors in the design, fundraising and construction of a new three theatre performing arts facility at Northstar at Tahoe.

Karl Sense a CPA from the Roseville/Rocklin area, brings a skill set of budget, financial and program management to the Board. He has managed his own accounting firm as well as serving as a partner at GALLINA. He has worked with non-profits in the community and brings a strong interest in the arts to PlacerArts. He will serve as the Board Treasurer.

John Kennedy, from North Auburn, is an artist, working in a home clay arts studio specializing in Rake, and businessman. He is a retired I.T. Manager at PG&E and former Computing Services Business Office Chief of Staff/Manager. He has also worked in diverse I.T. areas, strategic planning, and technical planning on diverse projects. John's artistic endeavors and his expertise in computing services provide a unique set of skills to the PlacerArts Board.

Shana Laursen is a philanthropist and art aficionado who also serves as a Trustee of the Yellowstone Park Foundation and the African Wildlife Foundation. She has a background in education, community outreach and community projects with strong fund raising skills and corporate affiliations. Shana also brings experience with the development and growth of several non-profit boards to the PlacerArts Board.

The Board of Trustees, currently with 10 members, will work with Executive Director Bob Reich to guide the growth of PlacerArts not only in its programs but also county-wide outreach and service to other arts organizations, businesses, county residents and visitors. In 2016, PlacerArts is moving on to its next phase with the growth of

partnerships, collaborations, additional regional outreach and funding. With their administrative offices in Downtown Auburn at the General Gomez Arts & Event Center, PlacerArts also operates ARTspace Rocklin and ARTspace Auburn studios for teaching and learning; the Old Library Art Studio artists-in-residence program; four long-standing and successful event programs – Auburn Art Walk, Colfax Art Walk, the Summer Music Series and The Autumn Art Studios Tour; and the Placer County Poetry Out Loud Competition program. PlacerArts plans to continue expanding development of the PlacerArts membership and donor programs.

For more information about PlacerArts, call 530.885.5670 or visit the website at www.placerarts.org

###

ABOUT PlacerArts Founded in 1983, PlacerArts is The Arts Council of Placer County, a nonprofit catalyst for the arts and humanities and the designated State-Local Partner of the California Arts Council. PlacerArts offers diverse programs and services and promotes the work of performing, visual and literary arts producers, encourages cultural & heritage attractions countywide and advocates for the arts and arts education. PlacerArts plays an often invisible, but vital backstage role as well. We connect with schools, teachers and county education officials to keep arts in the schools; provide technical expertise and inspiration to artists and arts organizations; collaborate with community and government organizations to develop strategies to keep the county vibrant.