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**Artists honored at special exhibition Wednesday at Dos Lagos**

*30 Plein Air Artists of Riverside members recognized, RAM receives a \$10,000 donation.*

CORONA, Calif. – More than 150 people attended a special exhibition Wednesday for the 30 Plein Air Artists of Riverside members and area photographers who took part in capturing the spirit of the Green Valley Earth Festival held in April at Dos Lagos.

Certificates were awarded to each of the *Plein Air* artists – a term which in French means to paint “in the open air.” Riverside Art Museum Photo Artist Network member Richard Paul was congratulated for winning both the Best Fine Art and Best Event categories in a photo contest held at the Earth Festival.

The Green Institute for Village Empowerment, GIVE, presented the Riverside Art Museum with a donation of \$10,000 to further the arts in Riverside County and beyond. “We believe that creating a cultural center is important to the Inland Empire and to the Green Valley Initiative,” said Les Hamasaki, senior advisor to GIVE. GIVE is a nonprofit organization sponsoring The Green Valley Initiative – a business and economic development effort to bring green and clean technology jobs to the Inland Empire.

Riverside Art Museum Director Daniel Foster praised Ali Sahabi, founding chairman of GIVE, for his gift to the art community. “I applaud the vision of Ali Sahabi, and his wife Aida Ekmekjyan, in supporting art and artists within the region and the community of Dos Lagos and Corona in particular.” Sahabi is also president and CEO of SE Corporation, the master developer of the Dos Lagos community.

Wednesday’s exhibition at Taps Fish House and Brewery at Dos Lagos was hosted by GIVE, the Riverside Art Museum, Plein Air Artists of Riverside and the Photo Artist Network. The Corona Art Association collaborated on the Earth Festival activities held in April.

Corona Art Association First Vice-President Jill Jones said area art groups are working together more in order to have a regional impact on the arts in the Inland Empire. “It boosts everything when you have networks throughout the region,” she said. “It’s a win-win situation for everyone.”

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