FOOTHILLS ART ASSOCIATION

FOOTNOTES

JANUARY 2026

UPCOMING EVENTS

DECEMBER 2025

Gallery Closed
Wednesday, December 31

JANUARY 2026

Gallery Closed
Thursday, January 1

Board Meeting
Monday, January 5,
10 - 11:30 am

Take In
Thursday, January 8th,
2 - 5 pm

Members Meeting
Thursday, January 8,
5 - 7 pm

Featured Artists GUHSD Reception
Monday, January 12,
5:30 - 7 pm

Message from the President

This past year has brought many positive changes to FAA. One of the most significant is our new Online Digital Gallery, which allows us to reach a wider audience and offer free exhibition space to both members and nonmembers. This expansion supports our founding mission: "to advance fine arts in the community by promoting awareness and participation in the arts through educational opportunities, workshops, and exhibition opportunities at the gallery."

In 2026, we plan to add new educational resources on our website as part of our outreach efforts. To make this possible, we are seeking several new volunteers who are willing to help us continue growing these programs.

Another major change is that Judi Zander will be stepping down from producing the FAA newsletter after two years of dedicated volunteer service. May 2026 will be her final issue. If you enjoy the newsletter and would like to see it continue, we need a volunteer to take on this role. Please contact Judi (juditezander@gmail.com) — she will co-edit with you to guide you through the process.

Our progress is made possible by the support of our members and the generosity of those who volunteer their time. Thank you all for sharing your talents and helping us create positive art experiences for the entire community.

Looking forward to 2026!

Warm regards,
John Engen

F A A B O A R D

President - John Engen
Vice President - Sharon Meng
Treasurer - Annie Johnston
Secretary - Sarah George
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Members at Large
Barbara Drews
Roz Oserin
Bonnie Owen
Judy Sawyer
Lloyd Smith
Judi Zander

Committee Chairs

Art Take-In
Bob Pinner

Class Coordinator
Stephanie Henry

Demo/Workshop
Stephanie Henry

Exhibition
Barbara Drews

Featured Artist
Judy Sawyer

Foothills Fridays
Bonnie Owen

Gallery Sitting
Michele Barbour

Gallery Supplies
Joan Merrick

Juried Shows
Cappie Geis

Membership
Rhonda Anderson

Newsletter Editor
Judi Zander

Social Media
Katherine Kennedy

Website
John Engen

Wildlife In Art
Sharon Meng

To contact a Board Member, please call the Gallery during open hours at (619) 464-7167 or email: foothillsartassoc@gmail.com

FAA Welcomes New Members!

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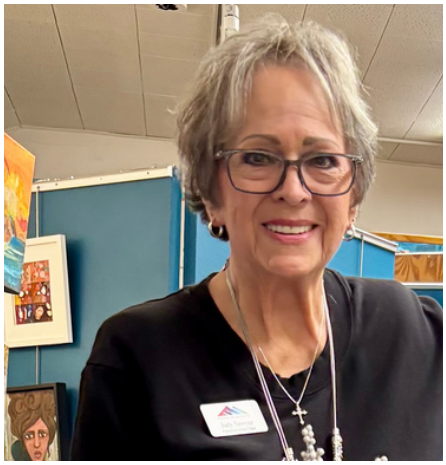
Foothills Art Association welcomes new members: Barbara Fletcher, Peter Suczek, and Carolyn Knack!

We are delighted to have artists and art enthusiasts join our community and we look forward to your contributions to our family of artists. Join us at our Members Meeting on Thursday, January 8th, 5 - 7 pm.

Volunteer Spotlight: Judy Sawyer



A San Diego native, my love of drawing and painting began in grade school and continued through Lewis Jr High and Hoover High School. Taking every art class offered with my favorite being Senior Art Studio, which I was allowed to take as a Junior and then again in my Senior year. Graduating in 1966, I received a scholarship to Hillcrest Beauty College and have been licensed and working from 1967 to present. I continue to see hair cutting and styling as a form of art. In addition, I owned two salons in Kensington. As an adult I took Life Drawing and Advertising at Mesa College.

While working and raising a daughter, art was intermittent, trying this and that through the years. In 2010 I enrolled in SD Community College's adult WC Art class with Marsha Austin-Rogers and was amazed at the ability lying dormant and surprised myself. In 2014 I began taking WC classes from Drew Bandish at Grossmont Adult Ed. He encouraged me to join Foothills Art Association, which I did. Wanting to improve my drawing skills I joined the SD Drawing Group at the Gallery and truly enjoyed the experience.

As resident of La Mesa since 1998 I have been active at Foothills as the Featured Artist Chair and also helping in the kitchen during meetings and receptions.

Foothills' environment and talented members are continuing inspirations to me.

My advice to everyone is "Don't be afraid to take an Art Class because you never know what talent is hiding inside of you."

FOOTHILLS ART ASSOCIATION

Registration is now open for the January Show. This show is open to members only.
Submissions: December 8th - January 5th
Take in: January 8th, 2-5 pm
This is a no fee, nonjuried show.

January Featured Artists

Grossmont Union High School District

The Grossmont Union High School District consists of twelve schools in the East County: Helix Charter, Steele Canyon, West Hills, IDEA, Monte Vista, Santana, Grossmont, Valhalla, Granite Hills, Mount Miguel, El Capitan, and El Cajon Valley. All schools are able to participate in the Sixth annual Foothills Art Association Art Show.

The Grossmont district has been serving east San Diego County for over 100 years. This district started with Grossmont High School and expanded with Helix High School (est. 1952). I joined Helix in 2000 after it became the first charter of the district in 1998. Since then, Steele Canyon joined GUHSD as the second public charter in the district. The twelve schools in the district represent the communities of: La Mesa, Rancho San Diego, Santee, Lakeside, Spring Valley, and El Cajon.

Six years ago Helix Charter High School was honored to partner with Foothills for the first time and had almost a hundred pieces of art displayed in their gallery. The Foothills Art Association has been a huge supporter of our art programs - and Helix High (as a National Blue Ribbon Award winner) in particular. I am so happy that our partnership has grown because students from more communities are now involved. This is a great opportunity for students to showcase their work, and see what it is like to have public feedback. Foothills has also begun offering a public choice award and generously donates a prize and Junior memberships to the recipients. This partnership is so appreciated by our district art classes and is more important this year as our larger District Show in Parkway Plaza has shifted to a smaller public venue, this year at Cuyamaca College. I truly hope that we will continue this symbiotic relationship for many years to come and that it will bring this amazing gallery and members more public exposure and potential members. I would like to formally express our thanks on behalf of the Grossmont Union High School District's Art Council and from me personally as a teacher and proud member of the Foothills Art Association.

We invite all members and the general public to come out to support this year's show. It will be up in the month of January and will host a reception on Monday, January 12, 2026 from 5:30-7:00 pm. We hope you will come out and meet and greet these wonderful students and their families on that day.

Christine Colera, Art Instructor and
Valerie Kay, Art Department Chair
Helix Charter High School
Grossmont Union High School Art Council Member

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People's Choice

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Crystal Laman who created "Opah" is our People's Choice award winner this month. Congratulations Crystal!

Every month, we invite our members and the wider public to select the artwork in our monthly gallery exhibition they most admire or that resonates most strongly with our monthly theme. The winning piece is then showcased prominently in front of the gallery for all to enjoy.

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Featured Artists Needed

Being a Featured Artist is one of the best benefits of being a member of Foothills. We currently need artists for February through July and December. We spotlight one of our many talented artists and give them an opportunity to showcase their artwork. Artists audition for this honor and are offered a full wall, as well as prime real estate in front of the gallery, to showcase their art. Featured artists have the option of hosting an art reception at the gallery. Guidelines for featured artists are posted on the website.

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Thank You!

Your contributions mean the world to us!

In this season of giving, we want you to know how much we appreciate your support, not just during the holidays, but all year long. Thanks to all for choosing to give your time and resources to our association this year.

Please consider Foothills Art Association in your year-end charitable giving.

Your financial gifts to FAA are tax deductible.

Footnotes Co-Editor

**Do you enjoy our monthly Footnotes newsletter?
Join Judi Zander as co-editor of our newsletter! She will teach you all the skills you need to be a part of this fun and rewarding experience.
Contact Judi at juditezander@gmail.com**

Guest Artist Host

**We're looking for a friendly volunteer to greet and assist our guest demo artists at the monthly membership meetings. This role involves welcoming the artist upon arrival, helping them get settled, and providing support with setup as needed (such as arranging materials, connecting to display equipment, or getting comfortable with the space).
Stephanie Henry will find and schedule the artists; we just need you to help them at the monthly meetings. If you enjoy meeting new people and want to play a key part in making our guests feel at home, we'd love to have your help!**

**Please let us know if you're interested by contacting
Stephanie Henry at stephaniehenryart@gmail.com or 619-219-0707.**

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**The Grossmont Healthcare District's Health & Wellness Library is looking for artists to exhibit in their Library's gallery space. They display quarterly art exhibits highlighting the work of local, East County community artists and non-profits, and host a community reception during each show as well.
Contact: Holland Kessinger, Head Librarian
Grossmont Healthcare District's Health & Wellness Library
9001 Wakarusa Street, La Mesa, CA 91942
Office: 619.825.5010
Direct: 619.825.5014
www.ghdhealthlibrary.org**

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**The La Mesa Branch Library has a few openings for different artists if you are interested in hanging your work for the community to view. They generally need about 10-12 works that can hang from their provided hooks. The library generally offers a one-month slot per artist. Please contact the library for further details.
619-469-2151**

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Do you have art news that you would like to share with our membership? Email Judi Zander juditezander@gmail.com to be added to our next newsletter.

FOOTHILLS ART ASSOCIATION

Board Meeting Foothills Art Association (FAA) 12/1/2025

Attendees: John Engen, Judi Zander, Sarah George, Annie Johnston, Joan Merrick, Judy Sawyer, Roz Oserin

· Agreement to minutes from 11/3 board meeting. Approved.

Treasurer - Annie · Wildlife show netted $6310

· Checking contains $9955

· Savings contains $18,322

· Sent $200 to La Mesa Chamber of Commerce and got a thank you note

· Received plaque sticker for updated membership from la Mesa Chamber of Commerce

Website - John · Total of 89 paintings submitted for C note

Gallery Supplies - Joan · $300 can be spent per month without approval, larger total than that requires board approval

· Shelving unit in cleaning supply room needs to be replaced, $50 for three shelves to replace them, Joan to procure

· Sharon to check on type of light in her kitchen so that we may use the same fixture for our kitchen for additional light

Social media – John · Last Instagram post from today had 996 views

· Last Instagram post for wildlife show had roughly 1500 views

· Ad placed in Courier, one time advertisement cost $300

Newsletter – Judi · Would like to partner with someone to teach them to use Canva to create the newsletter so that she has a backup and can step down in the coming year

· Will no longer include members showing art at other venues, each member will be responsible for posting their showings other than FAA

Other -

· Guestbook will continue to be used so that we can show foot traffic (for grants) and understand where the individual heard about FAA. Should the sitter keep a tally of how many individuals come in during their stay? Are the emails from the guestbook being put into an email list for FAA marketing email distribution?

Featured artist · C Note show from 12/5 – 1/7

· Lucas is the featured artist, and his art is an exception from the $100 price point. He will take down his art 1/7.

· GUHSD take in is 1/7, reception 1/12 from 5:30-7:00p, take down 2/3

· What will the "people's choice" prize be for the GUHSD show?

· Should we have a free event/workshop for the public to promote the gallery?

· John would like to set up a YouTube channel that offers introductory courses

· Tina from GUHSD to send information for the FAA newsletter (pictures, bio) by 12/8

Wildlife · Opportunity drawings should be placed on multiple tables to make them more accessible

· Lights too low

· Chair arrangement constrictive

· Should it be moved to October? Better weather and more light. Should we flip the wildlife show and the small image show?

· Put up all ribbons before the ceremony starts

· People had to find the raffle ticket sales

C note · C Note show to start 12/4

· We have three cash boxes for C Note show

· Enough pieces to hang for C Note show – roughly 89 paintings

· Need instructions on the front desk for the sitters. Need to understand what to do with cash, what information to record etc.

· C Note Reception is Saturday 12/13 from 3:00-5:00p · Same day as "Holiday in the Village" in La Mesa

Art Supply Sale · Need clear plexi box to place donations into for art sale, last box broke. Left out the whole month of December. To be emptied a few times a week.

Reminder · Holiday Party 12/4 from 5:00-7:00p

· Food needs to be purchased for the holiday party. Ros will go to Costco and buy food.

· Opportunity baskets will be for sale – cash only for tickets

Gallery Sitting Re-training

· C Note show guidelines · Doors/lights

· What information should be captured from visitors? · Cash box location and rules

· Sales · Engaging visitors

Next meeting January 5th, 2026 at 10:00am

FOOTHILLS ART ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP/DONATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

City _____State_____Zip Code_____

Telephone _____ Email _____

£ **New Member** £ **Renewal** £ **Updated Info** £ **Donation**

o **Enhanced Membership** (includes hanging/selling + website gallery)	$ 55.00
o **Active Member** (includes hanging/selling privileges)	$ 45.00
o **Associate Member** (excludes hanging/selling privileges)	$ 35.00
o **Junior Member** (under 18-years old)	$ 20.00

o I would like to include a Tax Deductible Donation in the amount of $ _____

Total Enclosed _____

Are you interested in volunteering to help with activities at FAA? £Yes £No

My signature below releases the Foothills Art Association and all persons connected with the exhibiting and handling of works of art submitted by me from any responsibility for the loss or damage by fire, theft or other hazards connected with the exhibiting and handling of those works.

Signed_____ Date_____

Print and complete this form and mail it with your check to:
Foothills Art Association, P.O. Box 794, La Mesa, CA 91944-0794

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW BEFORE YOU SHOW...

When you are entering your work in a show at Foothills Art Association, please pre-register your piece(s) on our website. Pre-registering your artwork greatly helps the volunteers working on take-in.

When you bring your work to the Foothills Fine Art Gallery on take-in day, all artwork must have D-ring picture hangers and picture wire for hanging. Artwork must also be labeled on the back with your name, title of the piece, price, medium, and your contact phone number. Please print and fill out the Entry Forms below or create your own. Attach one to the back of each piece, and give one (for each piece) to the volunteer accepting the work. Thank you for your cooperation.

NOTE: IF YOU HAVE NOT PICKED UP YOUR ARTWORK FROM A PREVIOUS SHOW, PLEASE COME BY THE FOOTHILLS FINE ART GALLERY AND PICK UP YOUR ARTWORK. THANK YOU!

If you have questions or need more information, please visit our website at FoothillsArtAssociation.com, email foothillsartassoc@gmail.com, or call the gallery during open business hours at 619-464-7167.
FOOTHILLS FINE ART GALLERY IS OPEN Tuesday-Saturday from 11-4pm

Foothills Entry Form

Show: _____Month:_____

Artwork Title_____

Medium_____ Price_____

Name_____

Phone _____

Email _____

Foothills Entry Form

Show: _____Month:_____

Artwork Title_____

Medium_____ Price _____

Name_____

Phone _____

Email _____