



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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New Community Grants Program Announced for Venice-based Nonprofits Serving Local Youth and Families

Funded by Proceeds from Annual Abbot Kinney Festival

Venice, CA (May 18, 2009) — In celebration of its 25th anniversary, the Abbot Kinney Festival Association (AKFA) announces its new AKFA Community Grants Program, which is funded by proceeds from the annual Abbot Kinney Festival. Now through July 1, 2009, the AKFA is accepting applications from Venice-based nonprofit organizations in support of programs and services aimed at youth and families in the surrounding community. For more details and to apply online, visit <http://abbotkinney.org/grants.html>.

From its inception in 1984 to present day, the AKFA has invested well over \$100,000 into the community of Venice. Since 2002 alone, it has made nearly \$70,000 in direct grants to ten local nonprofit organizations. This year, \$20,000 of proceeds from the 2008 festival will be awarded through grants up to \$5,000 each. Recipients will be recognized during this year's Abbot Kinney Festival on Sunday, September 27, 2009, 10:00 AM to 6:00 PM. Proceeds from the sales of sponsorships, exhibitor booths, event-run concessions, commemorative merchandise, and advertising help fund the AKFA Community Grants Program.

"We wanted to ensure that all Venice nonprofits are aware of the available funding and that our sponsors, exhibitors, and community members are informed of the festival's charitable purpose," said Elisa James, AKFA board member and past board president, who helped create the program along with current board co-chairs, David Reiss, Jonathan Zeichner, and the entire volunteer board.

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AKFA
ABBOT KINNEY
FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

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"The Abbot Kinney Festival is a celebration of life and beauty, and we are gratified to be able to invest the proceeds back into projects in the community, such as arts and education for youth, mural preservation, and school renovations. This year's event will also include a canned food drive called *Give What You Can* to involve attendees in giving, too," said Zeichner. "We're having fun and making a difference—that's the spirit of Venice."

For more info about the AKFA Community Grants Program and the 2009 Abbot Kinney Festival, visit www.abbotkinney.org, email info@abbotkinney.org, or call (310) 396-3772.

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ABOUT ABBOT KINNEY FESTIVAL

WHEN: Sunday, Sept. 27, 2009

10:00 AM - 6:00 PM: Festival

5:00 PM: Press conference to give checks to nonprofit recipients of AKFA Community Grants and to present the Spirit of Venice Awards

WHERE: Abbot Kinney Blvd., a one-mile stretch from Venice Blvd. to Main St. in Venice, CA

WHAT: One of Southern California's most popular community festivals, the annual Abbot Kinney Festival includes over 300 arts & crafts exhibitors, three live music stages, two bike valet stations, and food courts. In addition to a green living area, the event features the Inside Out Community Art's Youth & Family Courtyard with amusement attractions, cultural performances, and art activities for kids and parents.

WHY: Primarily run by volunteers, the Abbot Kinney Festival celebrates the vibrant creativity of Venice, California. Proceeds from the sales of sponsorships, exhibitor booths, event-run concessions, commemorative merchandise, and advertising help fund the AKFA Community Grants Program, which supports programs and services for youth and families in Venice through grants to local nonprofits.

WHO: Artists, musicians and performers will join an expected 150,000 people from throughout the region at the festival, which has grown to become the second largest community event of its kind in the region. Attendees and participants are best described as adults who are environmentally conscious, focused on health, love animals, enjoy bicycling, family-oriented, unpretentiously hip, and arts-minded.

To become a sponsor, exhibitor, advertiser, volunteer, performer, or vendor, contact festival producer Kim Sharp at (310) 396-3772 or kekua66@yahoo.com and Melissa Richardson Banks at (213) 446-3467 or melissa@causeconnect.net.

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