

## **Italian Street Painting Expo Brings in \$14,000 for Palo Alto Schools**

August 25-26, 2007 – Palo Alto, California. During the annual Palo Alto Festival of the Arts, passersby on Tasso Street were treated to an assortment of vivid chalk renderings, courtesy of the annual Italian Street Painting Expo, a five-year tradition benefiting Palo Alto Partners in Education (PiE), a non-profit organization dedicated to supporting Palo Alto public schools.

And on Saturday (Aug. 25) more than 70 children, aged 2 to 12, chalk-painted rainbows, flowers, dragons and the like on 2' by 2' squares in a special section called the "Chalk-A-Lot" set aside for younger artists.

More than 50 artists participated this year -- "a record number," said Palo Alto parent Cindy Ziebelman, who co-chaired the event with fellow Palo Alto parent Mary Haverstock.

"Thanks to the generosity of our sponsors, proceeds will provide vital teacher grants for the arts and innovative instructional projects for nearly 10,000 students at all grade levels in Palo Alto classrooms," Ziebelman said, adding that the event will net the PAUSD over \$14,000, with most of the money going directly to the PiE Teacher Grant Program.

Ayumi Tsurshita, a senior at Gunn High School who created a chalk Geisha, said she thought it would be interesting to draw something reflective of her Japanese heritage. "I really liked working on the ground," Tsurshita said. "It's very different from working on canvas. It was good to see people come up to me while I was working on it and tell me they liked how it was turning out."

Ariana Hoyt, a senior at Palo Alto High School, worked alongside friends and family and recreated the painting "Lady in a Red Hat" by American impressionist Frank Duveneck. This is Hoyt's fourth year participating in the Expo, which has become something of a family tradition ever since her older sister, Alison, first got the family involved.

"I really enjoy the atmosphere of street painting in downtown Palo Alto. All of the spectators are extremely appreciative, and all of the artists are really dedicated to creating something that others will enjoy," said Hoyt.

"I've never done this before, never used chalk like this," said Kristina Xiang, a Paly freshman, who said that she and Jasmine Tosky, an 8<sup>th</sup> grader at JLS, considered and rejected a number of images they came across online before selecting a picture of Tom and Jerry on a table. Xiang and Tosky said they loved the experience, wish they could do it more than once a year, and already have plans for creating a chalk rendition of Mickey Mouse next year.

Both the Expo and the Chalk-A-Lot are presented by KDFC for the benefit of PiE, and Haverstock said she is grateful to University Arts for sponsoring the Chalk-A-Lot and the

artists' chalk, Country Sun for artists' lunches, the Sheraton/Westin Hotels for artists' accommodations, and Graniterock and Bragato Paving for resurfacing the street.

"We also thank De Mattei Construction, Inventures Group, Kiwanis Club of Palo Alto, Townsend & Townsend & Crew LLP, Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce, Al & JoAnne Russell, Gary & Annette Fazzino, Wayne Renshaw Architects, Accent Art, Haverstock & Owen LLP, Hal Mickelson, Hank & Anne Barry, Susan & Jim Sweeney, Tom & Sharon Wagner, Carol Scott & Christian Pease, and Greg & Anne Avis, Peter and Cindy Ziebelman for their sponsorships," she said.

To find out more about the Expo or to sponsor a chalk art square next year, contact Ziebelman at [cindymail@att.net](mailto:cindymail@att.net). To find out more about PiE, visit [www.papie.org](http://www.papie.org)