

The Millard Sheets Center for the Arts at Fairplex Takes a Bow

The newly named Millard Sheets Center for the Arts at Fairplex (MSCAF) will be a year-round arts center and an exciting cultural resource for the community. The arts center began in 1922 as the Fine Arts Program of the Los Angeles County Fair. It was renamed The Millard Sheets Gallery in 1994 to honor world-renowned Pomona artist and teacher Millard Sheets. The MSCAF's launch coincides with the celebration of the 100th anniversary of Sheets' birth, and will feature a timeline retrospective of Sheets' work. The Sheets exhibition will be unveiled at the 2007 L.A. County Fair, Sept. 7-30.

"The newly named Millard Sheets Center for the Arts at Fairplex reflects Millard Sheets' life work as an artist, mentor and inspiration to others to have art as part of their daily lives," explains Dr. Linda Bosserman Piatt, chair of the MSCAF board of directors. "It also captures our mission to reach a broader audience with a greater variety of year-round exhibitions and educational programs in art, music, film and culture."



Millard Sheets in a historic photo.

For Laura and Greg Estel, Community Service is a Way of Life

The Estels, owners of Pomona-based Greg's Refrigeration, are long-time residents of Pomona and have operated their family-owned business here since 1991. Greg learned the refrigeration business – commercial and residential with a special understanding of Pomona's historic homes and businesses – literally at his father's knee.

Laura and Greg were introduced to Fairplex at the 2006 Summer Solstice by Mark Warren, vice chairman of the board of the Millard Sheets Center for the Arts at Fairplex and a member of the Los Angeles County Fair Association. That event cemented their commitment to the Fairplex foundations, which they generously support. The Estels have a special affinity for the Child Development Center now that their 3-year-old son, Gregory Robert, is a student there. Laura proudly wears the CDC commemorative bracelet Greg purchased for her at the 2006 CDC silent and voice auction.

"We believe in the importance of family, community and education," Greg states. "Fairplex plays a crucial role in supporting those values."

"We believe the work of all the foundations is important, but education is especially dear to us because we believe that kids are, simply, our future," Laura adds.

The Estels also serve on the board of the Pomona Boys and Girls Club and Laura is a past board member of Pomona Heritage. Both Laura and Greg are volunteers for the Pomona Historic Home Tour. They hope that they will be able to instill the same civic spirit in little Greg, who will soon be joining his dad in volunteering at Boys and Girls Club events.



Laura and Greg Estel

A New Year Brings New Faces

With the New Year comes a fresh approach to tackling goals, whether the aim is continuing the fine efforts of the Child Development Center (CDC) at Fairplex, raising funds to increase the number of students participating in the FairKids Discovery Club field trip program or cementing the Millard Sheets Center for the Arts at Fairplex as a cultural force in the community.

To assist in the fulfillment of those goals, the foundation boards welcomed several new members. First, CDC board chairwoman Jan Paulson has handed the gavel to the Rev. Elizabeth Bingham. Mrs. Paulson was tireless in her efforts while serving the CDC, and is commended for her hard work. Rev. Bingham is a familiar face to Fairplex, having joined the Los Angeles County Fair Association (LACFA) in 1995. A senior minister at Pilgrim Congregational Church, Rev. Bingham is very active in the community and chairs the Pomona Community Committee. She has also joined the Foundations at Fairplex board.

Also joining the CDC board is Mark Hill and LACFA member Charles Cable. Mr. Hill, owner of Davis Goldmark Jewelers in

Upland, has been a generous donor to the annual CDC auction, as well as the CDC in general. Mr. Cable is president of Hillcrest Homes in La Verne and is a member of several community organizations.

The Millard Sheets Center for the Arts at Fairplex board has added John Campbell III and Michael Driebe. Mr. Campbell is a financial planner in Claremont and an art connoisseur who has a keen interest in the center. An active LACFA member since 2005, Mr. Driebe is vice president of development at Pomona Valley Hospital Medical Center.

Keith Oldenkamp has joined the Fairplex Education Foundation board. Employed with Kroger/Ralphs Grocery Company, Mr. Oldenkamp is also actively involved with the L.A. County Fair's dairy exhibit in FairView Farms.

Joining Rev. Bingham on the Foundations at Fairplex board are Sue Hyland and Don Kendrick. Ms. Hyland is owner/chairman of the board of The Claremont Club. Mr. Kendrick, a La Verne city council member, owns a real estate office. Both Ms. Hyland and Mr. Kendrick are LACFA members.



CDC student Kali Blount visits with chairwoman Rev. Beth Bingham.