

*The Board of Supervisors of
Contra Costa County, California*

In the matter of:

Resolution No. 2014/386

In the matter of recognizing the Recipients of the Arts and Culture Commission's 2014 Arts Recognition Award

Whereas, Sylvia Fein, a resident of Martinez, is an acclaimed painter, who also writes about art. She continues to work from her Martinez studio at age 94; and

Whereas, Sylvia Fein discovered a love for drawing while in high school in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, attending the University of Wisconsin where she studied art history and painting, joining a group of accomplished local artists with national and international training; and

Whereas, Sylvia Fein's captivating and beautiful style reflects fantasy, imagination and the surreal, and

Whereas, In 1944 Sylvia Fein lived for a time in Ajijic, Mexico, opening an art studio and creating a body of paintings that were exhibited at the Perls Galleries in New York, owned by Klaus Perls, a collector, dealer and historian who was one of the founders of the Art Dealer's Association of America; and

Whereas, Sylvia Fein's works were displayed in the Whitney Museum of Art's Annual Exhibitions of Contemporary Painting in 1944, 1945, and 1946, a remarkable achievement for a young artist; and

Whereas, After WWII, Sylvia and her husband settled in Contra Costa County, eventually making their home and raising a family on land in Martinez where she gardens and paints; and

Whereas, Sylvia earned a M.A. in painting at UC Berkeley in 1951. A couple of decades later, she focused on researching and writing about art, especially on the development of visual logic; and

Whereas, Sylvia Fein's work was included in the exhibition *In Wonderland, the Surrealist Adventures of Women Artists in Mexico and the United States*, organized by the Los Angeles County Museum of Art in 2011, and a 70-year retrospective of her work 1942 to 2013, called *Sylvia Fein, Surreal Nature*, was jointly organized by the krowwork gallery in Oakland and Wilson Art Service; and

Whereas, Sylvia Fein's work has been reviewed in the New Yorker, Artforum, and Art in America, along with local publications. Her papers, 1936 – 2011, are in the Smithsonian Archives of American Art in Washington D.C., and

Whereas, Silvester Henderson, is an acclaimed musician, director and music teacher who directs the music program at Los Medanos Community College in Pittsburgh; and

Whereas, Silvester Henderson's numerous accomplishments include directing the award-winning Los Medanos Gospel Choir since its inception in 1995; and

Whereas, Silvester Henderson, who grew up in Oakland and attended San Francisco State University, directed UC Berkeley's internationally acclaimed Young Inspiration Gospel Choir from 1985 to 2006; and

Whereas, Silvester Greenwood is beloved by his students, who come from all cultural, racial, religious and cultural backgrounds. As a teacher and director, his philosophy is that music is a unifying force that can bridge gaps between people of different backgrounds; and

Whereas, Silvester Henderson emphasizes community service and sharing music, with the Los Medanos Gospel Choir performing at numerous community events of all types; and

Whereas, Every spring, Silvester Henderson, whose nickname is Mr. Gospel, organizes an annual Gospel Celebration featuring not only gospel, but salsa, jazz, love songs, and instrumental music; and

Whereas, In 2013, Silvester Henderson was a quarter-finalist for the first-ever Music Educator Grammy Award; and

Whereas, Joel Summerhill, a resident of Antioch, is a talented landscape architect and painter; and

Whereas, Joel Summerhill was Park Planner for the City of Pittsburg for more than three decades designing and supervising the construction of 15 parks, including the city's creative and innovative Small World Park;

and

Whereas, Joel also designed and supervised a renovation and expansion of Small World Park which included a vintage carousel, recirculating stream and waterfall, and party castle; and

Whereas, Joel Summerhill’s leadership and vision spearheaded the conversion of vacant land owned by the Los Medanos Community Healthcare District into a thriving community garden complex; and

Whereas, In addition to applying his art to land, Joel Summerhill is an award-winning watercolor painter and a member of the California Watercolor Association, a board member of the Pittsburg Arts Collaborative, and a vice-president of the Arts and Culture Foundation of Antioch; and

Whereas, Joel Summerhill is active with the Congressional Art Competition, a nationwide art competition designed with showcase young artists; and

Whereas, Many of Joel Summerhill’s watercolors feature landscapes of Contra Costa County;
Now, Therefore, Be it Resolved that the Contra Costa Board of Supervisors congratulates Sylvia Fein, Silvester Henderson, Joel Summerhill for being selected for a 2014 Arts Recognition Award and thanks them for their contributions to arts and culture in Contra Costa County.

KAREN MITCHOFF
Chair,
District IV Supervisor

JOHN GIOIA
District I Supervisor

CANDACE ANDERSEN
District II Supervisor

MARY N. PIEPHO
District III Supervisor

FEDERAL D. GLOVER
District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: October 21, 2014

David J. Twa,

By: _____, Deputy