

# The Art Exchange

## A New Art Center for Long Beach!

By Steve Pakiz, Board Chair Photos courtesy of Jay Hong

The Art Exchange (ARTX) at 3rd and Elm in the East Village Arts District is fast becoming a dynamic venue for art lovers throughout the city. In fact, there is nothing else like it in Southern California!

Newly reopened after a major renovation in 2016, our campus of four buildings houses an exhibition gallery, a learning center, and four artist studios. ARTX provides Long Beach a community center where art is created, exhibited, and experienced. Our goal is to establish and sustain an appreciation of a new generation of artists.

Our newly established Learn Exhibit Arts Field (LEAF) trips bring arts education to 1,000 LBUSD 3rd graders. Throughout the spring semester, students are given tours of the gallery and then create their own art in the learning center. This program and others are possible



Henry Elementary School 3rd grade class

through generous grants and private donations.

Jay Hong, recently retired from managing an international energy company, and Ron Nelson, executive director of the Long Beach Museum of Art, are ARTX board members. “We see this project as an exciting way to bring new art programs and dynamic art exhibits to Long Beach,” says Hong. “The Art Exchange can be a bridge for the many neighborhoods of Long Beach, using art as a wonderful connection for all of us.”

The Art Exchange is a 501(c)3 nonprofit, and its board and community participants are all volunteers. ARTX is always looking for talented people to volunteer, become members, and donate.

If you’d like more information or a personal tour of our campus, please find us at [artexchangealb.org](http://artexchangealb.org). Reach me at [spakiz@artexchangealb.org](mailto:spakiz@artexchangealb.org) and interim director Jay Hong at [jhong@artexchangealb.org](mailto:jhong@artexchangealb.org). ■



Jay Hong with Councilwoman Suzie Price



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