Art creates community. That’s our mantra here at the Santa Paula Art Museum. It describes what we are: an art museum, a center for creative classes, and a shared space where our community can gather together. It also explains why we do what we do. We believe that art strengthens our community by providing opportunities for self-expression, connection, learning, and joy.

Since opening in 2010, the Santa Paula Art Museum has served 34,000 visitors in addition to 13,000 local K-12 students. With your continued support, the Museum will be able to expand programs within both of its spaces - the Cole Creativity Center and Jeanette Cole Art Center - and reach new segments of the community.

Support the impact of arts in our community - donate today!

The Santa Paula Art Museum fills a gap in meaningful arts education.

- The Museum serves 1,500 students each year through its free ArtSPARK school tour program.
- Our tours and hands-on art lessons align with California State Arts Standards.
- ArtSPARK supports language development through vocabulary and discussion, particularly for the 70% of SPUSD students who qualify as ESL learners.
- The Museum’s Artist-in-Residence program places a teaching artist inside a Santa Paula elementary school classroom for eight weeks each year to teach art as a tool for critical thinking and communication.

The Santa Paula Art Museum teaches the most valuable skill in today’s economy: creativity.

- According to Americans for the Arts, 60% of CEOs and 72% of today’s business leaders cite creativity as the most important quality in an employee.
- The Museum’s Cole Creativity Center nurtures creativity in children and adults through an ever-expanding offering of fee-based art classes.
- A 2019 report by the Otis College of Art and Design found that California has a creative economy output of $504 billion; thus, creative skills are marketable job skills in local industries.

The Santa Paula Art Museum increases access to the arts for underserved populations.

- The Museum’s school tours are a vital opportunity to connect with children and families who may not otherwise feel comfortable visiting a museum.
- All of our major exhibition labels are now presented in English and Spanish in an effort to make our exhibits more accessible to our local community, which is 75% Hispanic or Latino, and 53% native Spanish speakers.
- Our Free Family Days are held on the first Sunday of every month and offer free admission and art activities to all.
- Americans for the Arts report that low-income students who are highly engaged in the arts are twice as likely to graduate college than their peers with no arts education.

The Santa Paula Art Museum empowers local youth.

- The Museum has a dedicated student gallery that features 4-5 exhibits of student art each year - a point of pride for both the students and their families.
- We have placed several college-aged students in internship positions within the Museum.

The Santa Paula Art Museum strengthens the social fabric of our community.

- The Museum hosts over 30 cultural events each year, all of which are opportunities for our community to gather together and for local artists, musicians, and citizens to share their unique knowledge with others.
- According to Americans for the Arts, people who participate in local art activities are more likely to feel positively about their community, to volunteer, and to become involved in local issues.
- Research shows that art bridges social barriers by providing opportunities to build friendship, empathy, and trust.

The Santa Paula Art Museum supports the livelihood of local artists.

- The Museum has produced over 60 original exhibits featuring 3,000 works of art by over 900 California artists.
- The Museum hangs at least two juried shows each year, which are open to all artists over the age of 18.
- Many of the contemporary artworks displayed in our exhibitions are made available for purchase, sales of which support the livelihood of local artists.

Questions? Call Executive Director Jennifer Highton: (805) 525-5534 ext. 101

The Santa Paula Art Museum is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization #2478728