



PRESS RELEASE

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PLEASANTON'S FIREHOUSE ARTS CENTER AND HARRINGTON ART GALLERY TO REOPEN MAY 1

10th Annual Fresh Works X Juried Exhibit, Summer Arts Programs, and Live Music to Return This Summer

Pleasanton, Calif. – Pleasanton's Firehouse Arts Center today announced that it will reopen its doors to the public on Sat., May 1, along with the facility's Harrington Art Gallery. This marks a major return of the creative and performing arts to Pleasanton since the venue's closure in March 2019 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

"We're excited to once again provide a place where friends and neighbors can gather safely and celebrate the joy of art, music and theater," said Tamara Whitney, Recreation Manager for the City of Pleasanton. "The arts provide more than just entertainment; they are also essential to our mental and emotional well-being. We're hopeful that by reopening our doors we can bring excitement and social connection to the many who have struggled during this difficult time."

New this summer, the Firehouse Arts Center will offer outdoor performances—both ticketed and complimentary—featuring a variety of local artists. The Firehouse will begin announcing these live, in-person shows in the coming weeks at www.FirehouseArts.org.

This summer will also feature the return of Pleasanton's much-loved summer drama camps and youth art classes to the Firehouse Arts Center, beginning in June. Summer camp offerings will include Teen Intensives, Improv for High School and Middle School, Lil' Sparks program, and a brand-new High School Cabaret program. Programs will be posted online on Mon., April 27 and registration will open Wed., May 5 at www.PleasantonFun.com.

The Firehouse's 2,000 sq. ft. Harrington Art Gallery will reopen at a limited capacity on Thursdays 10am-12pm, Fridays 3-5pm, Saturdays 11am-3pm, and additional times by appointment only. Coinciding with the Gallery's May 1 opening is the start of its annual Fresh Works X Juried Exhibit. The exhibition will run through June 26, 2021 and will feature 59 works from 49 local Bay

Area artists working in a broad variety of media including oil painting, mosaic, photography, video, oil, colored pencil, and sculpture. This year marks the 10th annual Fresh Works X exhibit, which will highlight works submitted for the 2020 show that was put on hold due to the Shelter in Place Order.

Whitney added, “This is just the beginning of the phased reopening process ahead of us. We are eager to bring back additional programs and events when we are confident that they can be done safely. Providing a safe environment for Firehouse patrons and staff has been—and will continue to be—our number one priority throughout this phased reopening. This will guide every decision we make in the coming months.”

The Firehouse Arts Center is owned and operated by the City of Pleasanton, and dedicated to inspiring passion through the arts. The center is comprised of the 227-seat Firehouse Theater, the 2000 square foot Harrington Gallery, classrooms and rehearsal space, the grand atrium lobby, and the famous interior glass bridge. With world-class performing and visual arts, exciting interactive programs for all ages, and a state-of-the-art venue which opened in 2010, we combine the sophistication of the culturally rich Bay Area arts landscape with the hospitality and intimacy of our own hometown. The Firehouse Arts Center is located at 4444 Railroad Avenue in downtown Pleasanton.

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