

SLO Center for the Arts

What is the SLO Center for the Arts (SLOCA)?

The SLOCA is a currently a concept, as its name implies, for a center for the arts in San Luis Obispo. It is conceived as a physical facility where artists of many different disciplines can CREATE, SHARE, PRESENT, TEACH and EXPERIENCE their art and the techniques for creating it. It is a place where the general public can appreciate the art and the techniques used to create the art. And it is a place where our young people can not only learn to appreciate the art but also learn how to create it.

Which artist groups will to SLOCA target?

The SLOCA will be for almost all artist disciplines – visual arts, creative arts, literary arts, performing arts as well as other art forms. The creative process applies to all of these groups. We expect to work with artist who paint and draw; with artists who perform vocally and with musical instruments and those who create for those performers; with actors, dancers and choreographers ; with artists who create physical objects of art including sculpture, clay, glass, metal, wood, cloth and other materials; with writers of books, plays, poetry and screen plays; with film and still photographers and videographers; with culinary artists as well as those involved in design, architecture, gardening and landscape.

Who can use the center facilities?

We expect that the facilities will be used by several classes of artists.

The first group will be sponsoring organizations. We expect that several organizations tied to the arts - visual arts, performing arts and creative arts - will be sponsors. These organizations will have discounted access to the individual offices and studios based upon their level of sponsorship.

Second, we expect to have a class of artist who will be selected to be Affiliate Artists. Affiliate Artists will have access to a studio at a discounted rate for up to a 6 month time period. Affiliate artists will be selected from

the San Luis Obispo County and will have access to studios, resources and common areas.

Third, we expect to have a class of artists who will be Member Artists. Member Artists will have access to the facilities and resources. They will participate in creative activities, in collaborative activities and educational activities, but not have access to a private studio.

Fourth, we expect that local schools – elementary, high school and colleges – will want to use the facilities with their students and will want to have access to our artists. We would also expect to conduct a summer program for students to learn creative techniques and be able to create artworks using the center’s facilities.

Fifth, we expect that the facilities may be useful for non-artist groups such as local businesses, organizations and families. We could certainly see how the grounds and facilities might be of interest to them for team building events and social events.

Is this duplicating what already exists?

As we understand, there is no facility that solely seeks to stimulate and cultivate the creative process across the breadth of arts forms. The county has a great set of performing art centers, but they each have a significant threshold size of audience. The SLOCA would be able to address performances for groups that fall below their thresholds. There are several galleries, but no facility that primarily works to stimulate the creative process. Art After Dark and the Artist Tours come closest, but even Arts Obispo does not have a facility. We have an International Film Festival, but it is primarily once a year. In the past there has been a writers conference / workshop, but that can be expanded. And so on. We would expect the SLOCA to partner and support each of these and other existing efforts.

Interested? Contact Lanny Hernandez, lanny@m4hz.com