

*"Building a Healthier Community through Personal and Professional Example"  
Peer Recovery Art Project is our continuous campaign to end stigma, revitalize downtown areas, while implementing new strategies for an all-inclusive and, therefore, healthier community.*

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## EXECUTIVE OFFICER NOTES



Rubber's burning and the City of Modesto is bracing itself for another Graffiti Summer Celebration. Love the Modesto Bee headline, "Paintin' the town with Graffiti". Now that really pops! That's a very catchy line, when referring to our beloved all-American Modesto Graffiti Summer calendar of events. As a member of this historic committee for close to a decade, JB and Peer Recovery Art Project thank those who support this citywide effort to draw tourism dollars while building strong community pride and helping revitalize our downtown. Hats off to Chris Murphy (Mr. Modesto) for working tirelessly to make the Graffiti route a top priority and for keeping us all in the loop through Modesto View.

There is a self-induced revitalization effort taking place at 1222 J Street, too, in the building where Peer Recovery Art Project's gallery is located. We have painted the building's exterior and striped it in an earthtone color scheme. If that was not enough we became the first community group acting only as agents for positive change, not associated with

any commission or bureaucratic committee, that spray can painted the first tribute mural to Graffiti enthusiasts who show off their cars and make us all proud to live in the City of Modesto.

Plans are under way for even more classy ways to improve downtown and we love being in the mix. Don't miss as the merchants of the 1200 block stand up in unity on June 16<sup>th</sup> and bring you the 2012 Modesto Blues Art and Music Street Faire on J. If you're out and about, drop by 1222 J, say hello and drop off some of those coins you've saved for the wishing well. We make dreams come true at our Peer Recovery Art Project gallery and you can, too! See you June 16th!

~John Black, CEO



*At left, the gallery's newly painted earth tone exterior. At far left, FASM's spraycan art mural painted in honor of Modesto's Graffiti Summer Celebration.*

Within the realm of positive artistic empowerment, Wells Fargo Bank and Peer Recovery Art Project partnered with local legend Aaron Vickery of FASM "spray can" mural to produce a one-of-a-kind tribute to American Graffiti enthusiasts. See the exciting mural at 1222 J Street, home of the Arts for Freedom program and Peer Recovery Art Project's art gallery.

Thank you, Wells Fargo Bank, for funding the project (100%); to Basic Resources for approval, and to Modesto for offering and maintaining such a wonderful city in which we can all belong - at Peer Recovery Art Project Gallery!



## PROUD THANK YOU

### TO PEER RECOVERY ART PROJECT

*By Nancy S. Dinant*

I love visiting my sister, Caroline Odom, and my brother-in-law, Jeramy Odom, in Portland, Oregon. My sister and her husband are the owners of Sweet Leaf Oddities and More. Caroline and Jeramy sell gnomes, carnivorous plants and eclectic gifts. They have a gift for anyone you can possibly think of surprising.

My name is Nancy Dinant, and I am a Jewelry Artist. I not only sell my jewelry with Sweet Leaf Oddities and More, but I have my jewelry for sale at the Peer Recovery Art Project and Arts for Freedom gallery in Modesto. I love what I do; I am honored to sell and show my work with both businesses.

While I was selling my jewelry in Portland, Oregon in May, I was interviewed by a local television station. The television station interviewed me at first for Sweet Leaf Oddities and More. Then the man with the microphone noticed the purple PRAP shirt I was wearing. He asked about the art gallery, what type of art, who could exhibit art, and many other interesting questions. WOW! What a day!

I am proud to say “thank you” to the Peer Recovery Art Project gallery for making my esteem climb higher, enabling me to create more unique jewelry, and providing the opportunity to join the cause of breaking stigmas.

169 people visited the Peer Recovery Art Project gallery during the May Art Walk. There are currently 70 artists showing art with the gallery. Come see the orange side walk and the newly painted exterior mural honoring Modesto’s Graffiti 2012 celebration.

## NEW YOUNG ARTIST GROUP

The Hue Crew at the Peer Recovery Art Project Gallery will create opportunities for young adults to become involved in the community and create positive role models for other youth through art and community involvement. We meet on the first and third Mondays of each month at 6 p.m. Our group already has many different projects lined up, including a Young Artist Summer Camp which will provide classes for artists in many different mediums like art and music. We are still looking for more young artists in all mediums, ages 14 to 25. For more information contact us at the gallery, at our email address (thehuecrew@hotmail.com), or call group leader Barbara at (209) 312-5289.

## YOUTH TO CREATE INSPIRATIONAL MURAL

*By Heather Pack, Center For Human Services*

On May 21, 2012, seven members of the community service-oriented youth group, Community Youth Connections (CYC), met with John Black, Founder and CEO of the Peer Recovery Art Project Gallery, and a representative of Stanislaus County Family Court. The youth group is working with the Modesto Court House to revamp their Dependency Waiting Room and make it more teen friendly. They will be partnering with John Black and youth artists, who work with John, to create an inspirational mural for the room, as well as creating a space in the room to display art created by youth that will be rotated every couple months. They look forward to creating new connections in the community by working with John and the Peer Recovery Art Project, and making the room a more beautiful, friendly space for youth.

## Positive Things When Sober

*By Soberman*

- When I’m sober, I behave Godly
- When I’m sober, I have great hygiene
- When I’m sober, I have a great personality
- When I’m sober, I draw friends like flies
- When I’m sober, I spoil my cat
- When I’m sober, I go to meetings
- When I’m sober, I’m honest
- When I’m sober, I smell good
- When I’m sober, I’m a prayer warrior
- When I’m sober, my family loves my company



**YOU'RE  
INVITED!**  
**MODESTO  
BLUES ART AND  
MUSIC STREET  
FAIRE ON J**

Peer Recovery Art Project, (PRAP) has just moved into your town at 1222 J. We are proud to be here and feel our group of businesses on J Street can partner and draw more patrons to our region. With that in mind, PRAP has obtained permission as a J Street owner, to hold the first "Modesto Blues Art and Music Street Faire on J", Saturday, June 16, 2012.

J Street from 12th to 13th be blocked to auto traffic and open to walk-ins for FREE. PRAP will have one outside area for live performers and J Street business partners will have music inside their venues as well.

Partners on J Street will have all sales. Peer Recovery Art Project artists only will sell original works on J Street, and café owners only will sell all food and drink. There will be no other outside merchandise or food/alcohol sales.

PRAP has received generous sponsorship donations to help fund this project including all permits and outside musical acts. We welcome your voluntary donations to fund future projects of our 501(c)3 organization.

As a J Street business partner, PRAP invites the entire community to come enjoy this most beautiful area of the downtown scene.

Here's the line up of musical performers:

- Tommy and the Edsels            Noon to 1 p.m.
- Mofo Party Band                1:30 to 2:30 p.m.
- Second Tradition               3 to 4 p.m.
- Big Earl                            4:30 to 6 p.m.
- CAFE R&B                        6:30 to 8 p.m.

The Modesto Blues Art and Music Faire on J is the best event choice of the season; an all-ages FREE admission event brought to you by Peer Recovery Art Project. See you there!

Hi, all

I never expected to be an "Urban Legend" in my own time. A few weeks ago in Los Angeles, the Estria Foundation mounted a major graffiti show and auction of paintings done by spraycan artists. The show was exciting, the crowd quite huge and a good time was had by all. Prior to the auction, the Foundation recognized three "Urban Legends". I was very pleased to be one, joining Kent Twitchell (the great realist mural painter) and Judy Baca (a major Chicana artist and charismatic founder and leader of SPARC, the Social and Public Art Resource Center in Venice, CA).

Each of us received the Spraycan Art created by Can-Love (see photo to right). How I ever got through the scanning machine at LA airport with the memento is a distinct mystery. Being Jewish, I was reminded of the Jews wandering in the Sinai Desert for 40 years after having escaped slavery Egypt. I have been wandering in the streets, alleyways and tunnels of the world documenting public art for 40 years. Fortunately for me, there were endless treasures to be seen whereas my ancestors encountered little else but sand.



Paz, Jim

P.S. The and white portrait of me is Brett Cook-Dizney's first sketch which he projected on a 6x5 canvas and painted my portrait with a spray can. The poster is from the record breaking "ART IN THE STREETS" show at the LAMOCA (Los Angeles Museum of Contemporary Art). I was pleased to have been selected to be in that show.

**CALL FOR ART AND WRITING**

The Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission (MHSOAC) is accepting artwork and writing produced by consumers in recovery, family members, and the mental health stakeholders community at large to be featured in our special edition newsletter, MHSOAC Expressions, as well as future issues of the MHSOAC newsletter, MHSOAC Update, and public view on the MHSOAC Web-site at [www.mhsoac.ca.gov](http://www.mhsoac.ca.gov)

All submissions are to be submitted electronically in the format of a word document, PDF or JPEG via email to [mhsoac@mhsoac.ca.gov](mailto:mhsoac@mhsoac.ca.gov) or via postal mail to the MHSOAC **no later than Friday, July 6, 2012.** *Contact Peer Recovery Art Project for more information.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS:

6/2 - Father's Day Pictures in Paint (first 20 to sign up children/grandchildren), 11:30 and 2  
6/9 - Modesto Artists Meetup, 6 p.m.



6/16 - Modesto Blues Art and Music Street Faire on J. Noon to 8 p.m. Must sign up to show art through the gallery.

6/17 - Father's Day  
6/21 - 3rd Thursday Art Walk  
7/6 - Art and writing entries due to MHSOAC

June and July - Sponsor an Artist Exhibit  
Blues and hot rod art exhibits, too!  
*Please call the gallery for more information.*

Peer Recovery Art Project gallery, home of the ARTS FOR FREEDOM program is located at:

1222 J Street, Modesto CA

Email, call or text:

[Peerrecoveryart@yahoo.com](mailto:Peerrecoveryart@yahoo.com)

(209) 581-1695

Open Thursday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.; 3rd Thursday Art Walk nights, 9 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Find us at the intersection of 13<sup>th</sup> and J Streets between the State Theatre and Crow Trading; right next door to the Camera Center.



*Arts for Freedom is sponsored by Stanislaus County Board of Supervisors and Stanislaus Behavioral Health and Recovery Services*

Send your TAX-DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS to:  
Peer Recovery Art Project, Inc.  
PO Box 5354, Modesto, CA 95353  
Drop us a line or send a request to be included on our list of supporters.

## PEER RECOVERY ART PROJECT, INC. EXECUTIVE BOARD AND TEAM MEMBERS

John Black, CEO, Arts for Freedom Administrator,  
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Carol Jo Hargreaves, Corporate Secretary, Editor

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Michael Anderson, Art Director

Betty Barnes, Arts for Freedom Program Coordinator,  
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