May 12, 2004 For Immediate Release For further information: Tom Costner, 707-554-9465 Celeste Smeland, 707-648-4035

VALLEJO COMMUNITY ARTS FOUNDATION & SIX FLAGS MARINE WORLD Collaborate on Animal Art Exhibition

On June 12th, the Vallejo Community Arts Foundation (VCAF) and Six Flags Marine World (SFMW) will host an art exhibition and auction entitled "Animal Instinct: Animal Imagery by Artists & Art by Animals." This event will be presented in two parts at the former Bank of Italy building at 332 Georgia Street, Downtown Vallejo.

From 11 AM to 1 PM, during the hours of the Farmers' Market, the exhibition will be open to the general public at no charge. (Children must be accompanied by an adult.) Inside the bank building, the Animal Imagery art will be on display. In the adjacent parking lot, Six Flags will present a display of animals, some of them animal artists who will demonstrate their talents for visitors.

In the evening between 6-9 PM, a gala event, fine art exhibition and auction will take place in the bank building. All the art displayed will be for sale by silent auction. The evening will culminate with a live auction consisting of trips, unique and unusual gifts, and other items of interest, for the benefit of VCAF.

Waiters will serve elaborate hors d'oeuvres, and a bountiful buffet of fresh food, including roasted vegetables, salmon, grilled steak skewers, Sonoma greens, pasta dishes,

and more all catered by Napkins Catering. An open bar will serve complimentary wine and cocktails. The Armonioso String Trio, featuring Kathy Marshall and Rochelle Davis on violins, and John Bennett on cello, will provide luscious live music for the evening.

Among the drawings and paintings offered for sale will be works by SFMW animals: walrus, camel, penguin, elephants and bird artists.

According to Jeff Jouett, spokesman for SFMW, "in the wild animals spend most of their time either hiding or searching for food. In captivity, we have learned that their lives are enriched by activities such as making art. In no way are they being exploited."

Jouett continued, "Six Flags has always considered itself a good neighbor to Downtown Vallejo and is pleased to join in this event, which will help both VCAF and call further attention to the revitalization of our historic downtown.

Celeste Smeland, Executive Director of VCAF, added that "the morning event aimed at families and children, would have the double effect of introducing some people who haven't visited The Fetterly Gallery to become interested in art and join our efforts to increase the presence of art in the historic downtown."

Admission to the evening event, including food and drink, is \$40. Reservations can be made by telephone at the VCAF, 707-648-4035, or by completing and returning cards that will be displayed in various downtown locations. Mastercard and Visa, as well as checks, are accepted. For information: www.vallejoarts.org