Hundreds attend to Cabrillo College arts complex grand opening

By Alia Wilson  
Posted: 10/11/2009 01:30:03 AM PDT

APTOS — If Sylvia Lee was not singing or dancing with Cabrillo Stage 20 years ago, she was sitting with the audience in awe of fellow performers.

So, when Cabrillo College held an open house for its new Visual and Performing Arts Complex on Saturday, she was elated. “It makes you want to go back to school,” Lee said backstage as she clasped her hands together. “I used to sing and dance with Cabrillo Stage in the ’80s and ’90s. This grand opening has been a reunion for us old-timers. It inspires us to come back.”

Along with hundreds of actors, teachers, students and arts enthusiasts, Lee explored the $70 million, five-building complex during Saturday’s open house. Throughout the day, performers entertained visitors inside and outside of the 122,300 square feet of new space for arts instruction, creation and performance.

Dancers performed on the lawn in the center of the complex, artists crafted pottery, metalwork and jewelry in front of classrooms and guests were invited inside to participate in various workshops.

After her son brought home pottery made for a ceramics class last fall, Denise Kennedy of Soquel decided to sign up for a course and has been a student for two semesters now. “I took a ceramics class in high school but that was 35 years ago,” Kennedy said with a smile. “I feel so accomplished for our community, so I am taking part in the arts.” Kennedy participated in an outdoor demonstration of raku, an ancient Japanese technique in using smoke to create patterns on ceramics pots.

The complex first envisioned by faculty members three decades ago was paid for by voter-approved bonds and some state matching grants. Dan Martinez, dean of visual and performing arts, said the event was to thank the community for the support and to encourage people, like Kennedy, to take classes in the new complex.

“There is an overwhelming level of support the community is showing for Cabrillo, especially for the arts,” Martinez said.

Tickets for three performances in the 44,700-square-foot Crocker Theater over the weekend sold out in 56 minutes on Sept. 28, according to Martinez.

“The theater seats about 550, so we’re expecting more than 1,600 people to come just to the three performances,” Martinez said. Award-winning set-designer Skip Epperson said what he appreciated most about the project was how the architects incorporated suggestions and feedback from faculty and staff into the complex’s design.

“That was really nice,” Epperson said. “We were missing a working orchestra pit and a fly gallery. Now there is so much new technology, we’re still finding out what’s what.”

Jeanne Brubaker held a watercolor demonstration in her new classroom, where she was surprised to see...
families with children explore the complex.

"The vision of the complex really reached out to the community," Brubaker said. "It shows that kids and grown-ups alike are wanting to learn how to use art and I think this facility will serve them well for a very long time."

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grand Opening Superstore</th>
<th>Make Less Than $45,000/Year?</th>
<th>Mortgage Rates Hit 3.75% Fixed</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Giant scissors, ribbon, bows &amp; more A full set of products</td>
<td>You May Qualify for a Grant to Go Back to School.</td>
<td>$160,000 Mortgage for $547/mo. No obligation. Get a Free MortgageRefinance.LendGo.com</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><a href="http://www.goldenopenings.com">www.goldenopenings.com</a></td>
<td><a href="http://www.SeeCollegeDegrees.com/Grants">www.SeeCollegeDegrees.com/Grants</a></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

**COMMENTS:** Please use your real name to increase your comment's credibility. Please help us monitor this conversation by flagging hate speech, off-topic comments, vulgarity and comments that in any way advocate violence. [Terms of service](#) Read all 11 comments »

**Type in your comments below**

**Name**
Name (appears on your post)

**Comments**

Type left: 4000

Type the numbers you see in the image on the right:

---

**Privacy Policy | Terms of Use | MNG Corporate Site Map | Copyright**