



THE HUMBOLDT ARTS COUNCIL  
in the Morris Graves Museum of Art

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## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

### **Teen Artists, Writers and Performers Sought For Twenty-First Session of The California State Summer School for the Arts (InnerSpark)**

The California State Summer School for the Arts (InnerSpark) is seeking the most talented high school-aged visual, literary, media and performing artists in California. The teenagers who are selected will be designated California Arts Scholars, and will attend one of the country's premier summer arts institutes on the campus of the California Institute of the Arts in Valencia from July 14 through August 11, 2007.

Posters describing the school's programs and application process are now being distributed at local high schools, libraries and arts councils. Application forms and instructions are also available on the web at [www.innerspark.us](http://www.innerspark.us). The application deadline is February 28, 2007.

For the 520 students accepted, InnerSpark represents a unique opportunity to spend four weeks studying and working with professional artists, writers and performers of national stature. The program provides an educational link to institutions of higher learning, major performing and fine arts organizations, and the film, television and recording industries for students considering careers in the arts. The talented teenagers who successfully complete the program will receive three units of California State University course credit.

InnerSpark offers instruction in the fields of animation, music, dance, film and video, theatre, creative writing and the visual arts. The California Legislature created the California State Summer School for the Arts to establish a training environment for the state's young artists. The school has conducted summer sessions in each consecutive year beginning in 1987. More than 9,500 young Californians have attended since the program's inception. For many of them, it was the first step to important and successful careers in the arts and related industries.

Alumni of the program include Actor James Franco who has been featured in the *Spiderman* movies, and the films *Annapolis*, *Flyboys*, *City by the Sea* and many others; Craig McCracken, the Emmy Award-winning animator who created *The Powerpuff Girls*; Creative Writer Daklia Davina, the Managing Editor of *Parade Magazine*; Dancer Sharon Grimsley Teague, Principal Soloist for the Houston Ballet; 2006 Ecco Domani Award winning fashion designer Sophie Buhai, the cofounder of Vena Cava, and 2006 *American Idol* finalist Katharine McPhee, to name just a few.

The school charges California students, whose families have the means to pay, a comprehensive fee of \$1,350 to cover room, board and tuition for the four-week 2007 summer session. Students from outside of California must pay a comprehensive fee of \$4,400.

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*The Humboldt Arts Council is dedicated to providing leadership in support of the rich heritage  
of North Coast arts and to bringing this legacy fully into community life.*

According to Robert M. Jaffe, Director, “Throughout its history, the school has provided the highest quality professional artistic training to the most deserving teenagers regardless of their economic situations. We provided scholarships to more than 40% of the students who were selected to attend last summer, and we expect to equal or surpass that record in 2007. This year, because of the extraordinary support from the Governor and the Legislature we have been able to reduce our tuition for in-state students by more than 35%. Last year the California students paid \$2,185 for the four-week program. This summer, they will pay \$835 less. That means no student who has the drive and talent to succeed in the application process will be denied admission, solely on the basis of inability to pay- it’s an incredible opportunity for talented young people.”

Those wishing to learn more about InnerSpark should visit [www.innerspark.us](http://www.innerspark.us) on the web, or call 916-274-5815.