
Academy of Visual & Performing Arts

Culver City High School

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AVPA at City Hall

Culver City, CA, June 16, 2006

At the invitation of Culver City's Mayor, Gary Silbiger, art students from Culver City High School's Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA) attended the Monday, June 12th city council meeting. The CCHS seniors displayed some of their artwork and spoke about their individual achievements which were made possible through their involvement in the AVPA's art program.



The students elaborated on the many professional experiences they had with museum programs, internships and exhibitions through the Academy and indicated that these programs, in part, helped them identify their individual artistic passions. The students also talked about the awards, scholarships and other recognition they have received and how it motivated them in pursuing their art.

One of the students who spoke was Ryan Atianzar, who has received a full scholarship to the Art Institute of Los Angeles. According to Atianzar, "It's because of all the museum collaborations and opportunities to display my art in real art galleries I gained through the Academy that I was accepted into all these great art colleges."

Kristine Hatanaka, the director of AVPA's art program, has known these students throughout their high school years. Hearing them talk about their experiences to the City Council confirmed Hatanaka's commitment to teaching students like these. She says,

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"What the students said was very inspiring and wonderful. I feel privileged to have seen how much they've grown over these past four years."

The Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA) at Culver City High School offers a comprehensive arts curriculum after regular school hours for students who are committed to excellence in Art, Film, Theatre, Dance, and Music. Established in 1996, AVPA enjoys tremendous community support from Sony Pictures Entertainment and other design, recording, and theatre companies in the area. For more information about the Academy, go to www.avpa.org or contact Tony Spano at 310-842-4200 x6094 or x6009.

Photo caption:

City council art: Kristine Hatanaka (L) with seniors Benjamin Hersh, Sue Li, Ryan Atianzar, Mira Deverich, and Ricardo Ibarra.

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