



**Academy of Visual and Performing Arts  
At Culver City High School**

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**Lisa Michel Wins Arts Teachers Fellowship for the AVPA at Culver City  
High School**

*Surdna Foundation Awards \$103,000 to High School Arts Teachers in National  
Competition*

For immediate release:

**Culver City, CA –May 29, 2008:** Local teacher Lisa Michel has been selected to receive a \$5,000 Fellowship from the Surdna Arts Teachers Fellowship Program. The Academy of Visual and Performing Arts at Culver City High School, where Ms. Michel has taught for seven years, also has been awarded a complementary grant of \$1,500 to support post-fellowship activities in the school.

The *Surdna Arts Teachers Fellowship Program (SATF)*, a venture of the Surdna Foundation's Arts Program, recently announced Fellowship recipients for the eighth round of its national awards. Sixteen outstanding teachers representing 14 specialized public arts high schools from around the country were selected from an initial pool of 57 applicants. The teachers excel in a broad spectrum of visual, performing, and literary arts.



Award recipients were evaluated by a peer review panel based on demonstrated excellence both as artists and teachers. All permanently assigned, full- and part-time arts faculty in specialized, public arts high schools were eligible to submit applications.

Ms. Michel plans to use the money to attend the Sarteano Chamber Choral Conducting Workshop in Sarteano, Italy this summer, and produce a concert and recording in Los Angeles with her vocal quartet in the coming year.

“I am truly honored to have been awarded this Fellowship. It will help me continue to inspire the wonderful singers we have here in Culver City. I look forward to seeing the positive effect my training this summer will have on my work with the future Chamber Singers at the high school,” said Ms. Michel.

“We’re thrilled to be able to offer these Fellowships to teachers of the arts. By focusing on their own creative work and interacting with professional artists and colleagues, these teachers are exposed to new ideas and practices that they can carry back to the classroom. After eight rounds of Fellowships—and 160 Fellows—we’ve witnessed the transformative effect of the Fellowship experience on both the individuals and the schools,” said Ellen B. Rudolph, Program Director for Arts, Surdna Foundation.

**About the Surdna Foundation**

The Surdna Foundation, a national family foundation established in 1917, helps support organizations in five program areas: Environment, Community Revitalization, Effective Citizenry, the Nonprofit Sector, and Arts. Additional information can be found on the Foundation’s website at: [www.surdna.org](http://www.surdna.org).

The Surdna Foundation’s Arts program aims, in various ways, to strengthen the artistic abilities of teens. The goal of the *Surdna Arts Teachers Fellowship Program* is to support the artistic revitalization of their arts teachers. Surdna’s goal is to help them increase their effectiveness as they guide and train young people for careers or advanced study.

For the next round of Fellowships, Letters of Intent to Apply are due by November 14, 2008. For application information, go to: [www.surdna.org/artsteachersfellowship](http://www.surdna.org/artsteachersfellowship)

**About the Academy of Visual and Performing Arts**

The Academy of Visual and Performing Arts (AVPA) at Culver City High School has been inspiring and empowering students to build a compassionate, creative community through innovative and challenging arts education since 1996. AVPA enjoys tremendous support from Sony Pictures Entertainment and other area businesses as well as from the Culver City community. For more information about the Academy, go to <http://avpa.org> or contact Tony Spano at 310-842-4200 x6094 or Kristine Hatanaka at 310-842-4200 x6001.

Photo caption:

Lisa Michel, AVPA Chamber Singers Director, Surdna Fellowship Recipient

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