



Building Blocks

The following poem was written by a student who participated in Phase I of the Houses Art project. (See inside pages for more information on Houses Art!)

Whenever I say family
I think of those [with whom] I
spend late nights joking, con-
versing, and just enjoying their
company
I see my friends; those I love and
who love me back. My parents and
brother who support me in what
I do
I hear the snide remarks of one,
the comforting words of another,
and the general closeness of his-
tory in words
I smell the wonderful food of my
mother, the feet of my friend, and
the perfume of my goddess
I feel alive when I am with all of
them, never wanting it to stop
Now, whenever I say family
I will always remember love

--Andrew Misisco, age 22
Student, Monterey Peninsula College



With support from the
Monterey County Board of Supervisors



BUILDING A DREAM AT EAST GARRISON

Notes from Richard Mayer, Executive Director

A drive along Fort Ord's northern boundary, Reservation Road, reveals a vastly changing landscape. Emerging from the dust of dozens of earth movers and construction workers, the foundations of the new town called East Garrison are firmly in place.

At this stage, the most conspicuous structures on the site are twenty former mess halls and storage buildings that are being preserved for rehab in 2010 as artists studios, galleries, and classrooms. These are the buildings of Arts Habitat.

As of this writing, the actual rehab date is uncertain, pending analysis of the real estate market by master developers, East Garrison Partners (EGP). In a recent conversation with EGP's Keith McCoy, I learned: "All of the Phase One and Two grading has been completed, and we are finishing up some major infrastructure work along Reservation Road and the storm water system. About \$30 Million has been invested in the site so far."

Keith is especially pleased at the response to their marketing efforts for the East Garrison Town Center. "The Town Center work has generated a lot of interested potential operators, which is great for the project! We have received deposits for some of the concepts from people who have told us they want to be in East Garrison! They are all local, well known entrepreneurs and are looking for a long term relationship with us and the East Garrison community. We will continue to work with them, if a slow down is indicated, to maintain their enthusiasm and commitment."

Meanwhile, Arts Habitat is developing off-site arts programs, such as Houses Art, that further our mission, "Creating a Place for Creating Art." Please visit the Arts Habitat web site, www.artshabitat.org.



...provides Arts Programming for the East Garrison communities of the past, present and future. Would you like to help? sign up at
<http://www.artshabitat.org>

Houses Art: Phase Two

Phase Two of Houses Art is currently being designed with the intention of working with students, artists and organizations in the Salinas Valley. We hope to have the opportunity to work with a diversity of participants as well as youth at risk.

As Houses Art moves into this new phase we will encourage an expansion of concept, media, and partnership through our collaborative inquiry around creativity, community and home.

For more information or to get involved, please contact the program director at dsanders@arthabitat.org



Kick-Off Exhibition for Houses Art Project

Arts Habitat celebrated our first public art community collaboration on Sunday, March 2, 2008, with a successful Kick-Off Exhibition for the Houses Art project. The Hayes Community Center in Seaside was filled with people enthusiastic about the fourteen large, house-shaped paintings created by students from the Arts Careers Academy at the Monterey High School; California State University, Monterey Bay; and Monterey Peninsula College.

The paintings revealed varied expressions of what turns a place into a community and a house into a home. Participants and community members enjoyed the indoor/ outdoor festivities which included an amazing array of raffle prizes, delicious refreshments, an interactive poetry writing area with an on-going slide show, and live music with a grassroots music jam featuring the talents of John Tallon, Patrick Clark, Maria Matias and Eddie Gutierrez.

Houses Art is Arts Habitat's first step in establishing East Garrison's creative community through alliances with student artists, arts educators and organizations. The title, Houses Art, and the house-shaped canvas format evoke the new live/work and studio spaces being developed at East Garrison and are a reminder of the historic tent city that once housed soldiers there.

According to Program Director, Denese Sanders, "These artists were so happy to collaborate with their peers, teachers and Arts Habitat." One student said, "It made me try my best because so many people were depending on me." Other students reflected that the process of working side-by-side with other students improved their painting skills and confidence. Over the four months of working on these pieces, students recognized the varied implications that "home" has for each individual.

Phase One canvases are slated for exhibit around the county, in pairs, trios or as a whole set. Arts Habitat is seeking a variety of venues, including coffee shops, outdoor or indoor spaces in public buildings, at festivals, farmers markets and multi-cultural events, and through arts organizations and galleries. The paintings will land at East Garrison when the first phase of development has been completed.

**Houses Art canvases will be on display during
Salinas First Fridays**

**May 2, 2008 5 - 8 p.m at 231 Main St.,
Salinas**



Chums

When lovers become friends . . . and friends become lovers

Arts Habitat will stage a benefit preview of **Chums**, a new comedy by Tom Parks, on Thursday evening, May 1 at the Carl Cherry Center for the Arts. Tickets are \$100 per person and will benefit Arts Habitat program development. Curtain is at 7 pm with a reception to follow the play.

Chums is the first non-musical play written and directed by Tom Parks. The play is about a Broadway actress, Ruth Reddington, and a screen writer, John Alton. They haven't met in forty years. Now older, and free, they meet in New York for an evening of catching up, and...well, anything might happen.

Cast members, Rosemary Luke and Stephen Poletti, are well-known to Monterey Peninsula audiences. Luke has appeared in leading roles in works by several modern playwrights including Albee, Shaffer and Simon. Poletti has numerous film and stage credits, and is well-known to Peninsula audiences for his fine baritone.

Parks has produced four highly successful shows in as many years, including "Something for the Boys", a USO pastiche; "Marlene—From Berlin to Hollywood to Berlin, 1930-1945"; "Say It with Music"; and "Give My Regards to Broadway, George M. Cohan Tonight".

Seating is limited. For ticket information, please call 626-6959.

If you are interested in receiving information from East Garrison Partners about purchasing a home, renting artists space, or the nature of the future East Garrison community, go to <http://www.eastgarrison.com>.

There you will find an opportunity to sign up to receive updates on construction progress, and other news connected with the development process.

Mary's Place

ARTS HABITAT HONORS

MARY BALZER BUSKIRK

NOTED WEAVER, FIBER ARTIST
AND ARTS HABITAT FOUNDER

FOR HER MANY YEARS OF TIRE-
LESS ADVOCACY AND LEADER-
SHIP ON BEHALF OF MON-
TEREY COUNTY ARTISTS AND
ARTS ORGANIZATIONS.

WE DESIGNATE THE FORMER
BRANCH EXCHANGE, BUILDING
91, AT EAST GARRISON:

MARY'S PLACE.

THE BUILDING WILL HOUSE
STUDIOS AND ARTS HABITAT'S
HEADQUARTERS AT THE NEW
TOWN OF EAST GARRISON.

MARY HAS BEEN A TRUE COM-
RADE-IN-ARMS FOR MORE THAN
SIXTEEN YEARS, CHAMPIONING
THE CAUSE OF LOW-COST, ART-
ISTS STUDIO SPACE.

HER LEGACY WILL BE DE-
FINED BY THE NEW ARTS
HABITAT COMMUNITY AT THE
FORMER FORT ORD.

—MARTHA MANSON, PRESIDENT
ARTS HABITAT
BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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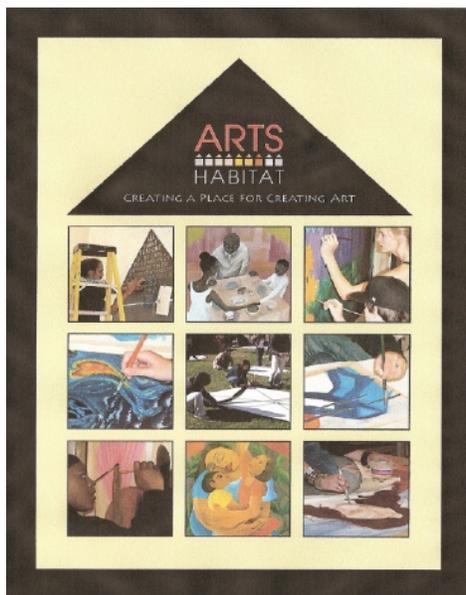
ARTS
HABITAT
P O B O X 6 4
M o n t e r e y , C A
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It all began when we wondered what to do with ourselves while waiting for the new town of East Garrison to be built. We aren't the kind of people who like to sit around.

We decided to do something.

We decided to encourage artists to explore the relationship between community, shelter, and the arts.

So, now students throughout Monterey County are engaged in artistic exploration about our culture's concepts of shelter.



We call it Houses Art.

Through our Houses Art program, Phase I, students explored home, shelter and community through art.

We are pleased. We want to do more! Can you help?

Thank you for supporting the work of Arts Habitat. You can continue to support our programs by making as generous a contribution as you can.