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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

ARTS COMMUNITY ART PROJECTS

ARTS installs a mosaic mural on the campus of McKinley Elementary
and an ARTS Youth Intern creates a cow for the CowParade

San Diego, CA, March 23, 2009 – ARTS Creative Director Rob Tobin and Del Mar artist Betsy Schulz have teamed up for a community art project to make over the student garden at McKinley Elementary School in North Park. The team is working with McKinley's Carol Stephenson, Richard Kenyon, David Whitehead and all 45 of their second grade students. This exciting project is a combination of painting, mosaics and landscaping centered on the theme of *The Octopus' Garden*. Important themes of the project are the international baccalaureate attitudes of Tolerance, Appreciation, Commitment, Confidence, Cooperation, Creativity, Curiosity, Empathy, Enthusiasm, Independence, Integrity and Respect. Tiles donated from Schulz's public art project at the Sapphire Tower downtown as well as other donated and recycled materials are being used in the design.

Using the ARTS Van Go! shuttles, the second grade students went on a field trip touring Schulz's Del Mar studio where they learned about the process of making and decorating ceramic tiles. The students also took a field trip to the Pat D'Arrigo ARTS center in January where they glazed tiles and molded turtles, fish, octopi and other sea creatures that will adorn the garden walls at McKinley. They then took turns learning the history of and performing the Beatles' song *The Octopus' Garden*. Tobin and ARTS volunteers will continue to work with the students to ready the project for its unveiling in early April. They will be at the campus installing the mural on **March 28th and 29th**.

In other news, ARTS youth intern Inocente, recently completed her artistic design of a life-sized fiberglass cow that has joined 39 others on display in La Jolla for the CowParade (March 15 – June 15). The CowParade is one of the largest and most widespread international public art events in the world, having participated in over 50 cities worldwide since 1999, including Chicago (1999), New York City (2000), London (2002), Tokyo (2003), Mexico City (2005), Paris (2006), and more. \$20 million has been raised for various charitable organizations through the auction of the cows, which will take place at the conclusion of each event. Please visit www.AReasonToSurvive.org to view other ARTS Community Art Projects throughout San Diego.

A Reason To Survive (ARTS) is a San Diego-based non-profit organization that is dedicated to healing, inspiring, and empowering children facing life challenges by providing free innovative arts-based programs, education, and opportunities. ARTS provides visual, performing, and literary arts programs to thousands of kids annually at the Pat D'Arrigo ARTS Center, located at the NTC Promenade in Point Loma. This 7,000 square foot creative space includes visual and ceramic arts studios, a dance studio, music room, digital media room, and children's art gallery. ARTS also provides Community Outreach Programs to children at various partner sites such as hospitals, residential treatment facilities, shelters, rehabilitation centers, community groups, schools, and more. The programs and services are **FREE** to children facing life challenges. There is no charge to a child, family, partner site or service provider. For more information, please visit www.AReasonToSurvive.org.

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If you would like more information on this topic or to schedule an interview with Kevin Ho, please contact (619) 297-