

# Photography • • • • • Competition on the Move

Movement. It's a word with powerful definitions – motion, action, events, an organized effort. The Millard Sheets Center for the Arts will explore all those definitions through this year's photo competition during the L.A. County Fair. *Photography at High Speed: A Historical and Contemporary Exhibit* will offer professionals, amateurs, hobbyists and students an opportunity to show their images that capture movement both physically and figuratively, whether it's an athlete flying over a hurdle or a social activist trying to exact change.

"It's an evocative theme, giving the entrants wide latitude for subject matter," said Alice Liu, competition coordinator.

New this year is the competition's fashionable home in the photography gallery in The Village on Broadway. With the move to The Village, the photo competition and the exhibit in the gallery will each enjoy more space and it's a great cross-pollination of art on the fairgrounds.



# Where does your donation go? The myths • • • and truths about Foundations at Fairplex

For those of you who might be wondering, the Foundations at Fairplex makes its home at Fairplex. Do your donations fund the Los Angeles County Fair Association, too? Here are some myths and truths to answer questions like that.

**Myth:** A portion of my donation to the Foundations at Fairplex goes to the Los Angeles County Fair Association.

**Truth:** Not one cent of any donation goes to the operations of the Los Angeles County Fair Association, the L.A. County Fair or Fairplex. All donations go directly to the four foundations (Child Development Center at Fairplex, the Fairplex Education Foundation, the Millard Sheets Center for the Arts and the all-encompassing Foundations at Fairplex). The foundations provide educational programs to the local community.

**Myth:** The L.A. County Fair's revenues pay for the foundations' programs.

**Truth:** All foundations programs are funded by private donations and support from the Los Angeles County Fair Association.

**Myth:** A percentage of my donation goes toward the operating budget of the Development Department, which manages all of the foundations.

**Truth:** Absolutely false. The development department's operating costs are currently covered by the Los Angeles County Fair Association, making the Foundations at Fairplex one of the few non-profits in which all proceeds are earmarked entirely for programs

**Myth:** The Foundations at Fairplex are part of Fairplex.

**Truth:** Although created by the Los Angeles County Fair Association, the four foundations are separate entities, each with its own 501(c)3 designation.

# Millard Sheets Center for the Arts and Foundations at Fairplex

# Betty DesCombes: • • • • • Supporting Education at the Fair

Betty DesCombes' admiration for the L.A. County Fair stretches a long way back. She and her husband, the late Don DesCombes, became part of the Fair family when Don was appointed to the Los Angeles County Fair Association in the late 1960s. That connection was deepened when Don became a director in 1979, then strengthened even more when he became the founding director of the Fairplex Education Foundation. What many don't know is that Betty's grandparents lived in the Pomona Valley since 1908, and were right here when the first Fair opened in 1922.

"So, I am very familiar with the Fair," Betty said.

She is also an ardent supporter of the foundations at Fairplex, particularly the Education Foundation. Education was a subject close to Don's heart, and Betty has continued that drive. She said in the early years, educational programming within the Fair's exhibits was non-existent. Now, the Fair explodes with opportunities for students and the community.

"It all had to be created, but look what they've done," she said, referring to FairView Farms, America's Kids and the Millard Sheets Center for the Arts.

While supporting the educational efforts of the foundations at Fairplex is a seamless endeavor for Betty, she said she often isn't quite sure what kinds of programs her donations are supporting. And she thinks that is the case for many of the donors. "Spell it out for me!" she said. So, Betty, for you and the many other generous contributors, here are some facts:

- \$25 will cover the cost of half a busload of Pomona students to attend a FairKids Discovery Club Field Trip
- \$409.75 can buy a Grand Champion Market Lamb at the Junior Livestock Auction (depending on weight of the lamb!)
- \$5 can buy a box full of thick crayons for CDC preschoolers to draw colorful pictures of flowers and amusing self-portraits
- \$200 can help with the cost of the broom maker who expertly teaches children how to assemble a broom at California's Heritage Square
- \$1,000 can help buy textbooks at Stanford, UCLA, Princeton or UC Berkeley for one of the many Junior Fair Board members who've gone on to college with a scholarship from the Fairplex Education Foundation
- \$50 gets a table full of art supplies – paints, photo paper, drawing pencils – for hands-on projects at the Millard Sheets Center for the Arts

- And the money you gave at the Premiere Party last year, \$100,000 of that provided nearly 100,000 students with the experience of a FairKids Discovery Club Field Trip, including milking a cow, visiting an art exhibit, petting a capybara (the world's biggest rodent), igniting a love of literature by meeting real-life authors in America's Kids and the opportunity to participate in The World's Largest Classroom®

*Right: Children experience the thrill of art.*

*Below: Betty DesCombes and her late husband, Don, have been ardent supporters of the Fairplex Education Foundation.*

