

# THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

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## Laguna hails its art stars



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LAGUNA BEACH – Laguna Beach resident and well-known assemblage artist Paul Darrow was honored with a special Lifetime Achievement Award by the Laguna Beach Alliance for the Arts on Sunday at the sixth annual Art Star Awards.

Art Star Awards, custom designed by Louis Longi, were presented to organizations, businesses and individuals who have contributed and shaped the arts and culture of the Laguna Beach community and the county.



The Laguna Community Swing Set concert band, an all volunteer band, performs at the Laguna Beach Alliance for the Arts 6th Annual Art Star Awards banquet.

STEVEN GEORGES, FOR THE ORANGE COUNTY REGISTER

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Glass artist John Barber was recognized as the 2012 recipient of the \$5,000 Inspiration Grant. Funded by [seven-degrees], the grant supports an emerging or established Laguna Beach artist to develop and present an innovative arts project or program that advances recognition of Laguna Beach as a progressive arts city. The three finalists were Barber, photographer Tom Lamb and dancer Michelle Lance.

Last year's grant recipient, mixed media artist Roark Gourley, presented his project Liquescent, in which he explores the underwater world of Southern California waters.

The categories and the nominees were:

Best New Arts Program: Bluegrass and BBQ (Laguna Beach Live!); Kids' Paint Out (Laguna Art Museum and Laguna Plein Air Painters Association);

Studio Art Classes (Sawdust Art Festival and Laguna Beach Visitors and Conference Bureau)

Individual Arts Patron of the Year: Bobbi Cox, Rick Lang and Deborah and Henry Mayhew

Corporate Arts Patron of the Year: Bank of America, Haskell & White LLP, Vizio.

Outstanding Arts Collaboration: 911 Memorial Monument (City of Laguna Beach, New York Port Authority, and Mark Porterfield), FOA South (Festival of Arts and Active Culture), Plein Air Painting Invitational (Laguna Art Museum and Laguna Plein Air Painters Association)

Arts Leadership: Robert Hayden III, Laguna Art Museum; Greg Vail, Laguna Plein Air Painters Association; Karen Wood, Laguna Playhouse

Artist of the Year: Jorg Dubin, Sandra Jones Campbell and Jon Seeman

Dana Gioia, former chairman for the National Endowment for the Arts, was the keynote speaker. The Laguna Concert Band's Swing Set

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performed big band tunes.