



Photo courtesy Pasadena Art Alliance

Altadena-based Side Street Projects, which helped support 2nd-grade students during a public art tour, was last year's Pasadena Art Alliance award recipient.

Pasadena Art Alliance Gears Up for 7th Annual Impact Award

Created in 2015 to commemorate the Pasadena Art Alliance's 60th anniversary, the Impact Award honors and showcases excellence in visual contemporary art education that impacts youth (K-12 and beyond).

This award is a way for the PAA to further strengthen its support of contemporary visual art education in Los Angeles County by extending its reach to younger students who are ineligible for PAA's well-established Grants Program.

This year, PAA's Impact Award winner will receive funds of up to \$22,500. The award amount, set each year, is given to a single recipient. Unlike a grant, this award is not given for a specific purpose, rather, it is to be used as the organization sees fit to

continue the educational efforts for which it is being honored.

Past recipients of the award are artworxLA, Heart of Los Angeles, Pasadena Educational Foundation for its My Masterpiece Program, Ryman Arts, Art Division, and Side Street Projects.

For more information, visit pasadenaartalliance.org. In addition, questions can be directed to paa.impactaward@gmail.com. The application deadline is Feb. 1.

The purpose of the Pasadena Art Alliance is to foster appreciation for contemporary visual arts in Southern California by supporting artists, exhibitions, educational programs and art-oriented, nonprofit institutions.

AbilityFirst Announces New Board Chair

Local resident David Saeta has been selected as the new board chair at AbilityFirst, the Pasadena-based nonprofit organization has announced.

Saeta, executive vice president with IDS Real Estate Group, takes over the position formerly held by Wendy Lees.

AbilityFirst's new executive committee includes Saeta as chair, Kathryn Sanders Platnick as vice chair, Randy Repp as treasurer, Will Craig as secretary and Willan Johnson as member-at-large. The board's other directors are Steve Brockmeyer, Joseph Brumfield, Mike Dokmanovich, Richard R. Frank, Lauren Hom, John Kelly, Joanne Kim, Anita Lawler, Wendy Lees, Dr. Francisco Navarro, Mary Spellman, Louis Teran, Harlan Thompson and Patricia Vick.

Saeta is a third-generation South Pasadena resident who studied human biology at Stanford University and went on to receive his MBA at UCLA. He is a former South Pasadena mayor, councilmember and planning commissioner, "an avid golfer and is passionate about volleyball," according to an AbilityFirst spokesperson. He began his professional career as a national director for the NCAA Volunteers for Youth program and has spent the last 30 years with IDS Real Estate Group.

"My support for AbilityFirst started when I organized a high school all-star volleyball match that included a public service experience for the athletes. The all-stars conducted a skills clinic for the AbilityFirst participants and it touched my heart to see these two groups working together," Saeta said. "Today I am excited to continue to support AbilityFirst CEO Lori Gangemi and the entire team, supporting



David Saeta

individuals with developmental disabilities."

AbilityFirst provides a variety of programs that help people with disabilities realize their full potential throughout their lives. As the organization celebrates more than 96 years of service, it is focusing its efforts on programs that "are proven to have the greatest impact on a person's success: basic life-skills enhancement through our children's and adult programs; higher education and employment readiness; and independent living and social and recreational programming," a spokesperson said. "AbilityFirst looks beyond disabilities, focuses on the capabilities of each individual and breaks through any preconceived limitations, opening up a world of possibilities."

To learn more, visit abilityfirst.org.



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