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7. Arts Leader honoree Chris Velasco with his award (designed by local artist Lis Schwitters).

PHOTOS BY CARLO GODOY



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**2009 MAYOR'S ARTS AWARDS  
CROWNE PLAZA VENTURA BEACH HOTEL**

Former Ventura Mayor Christy Weir presented the city's 2009 Mayor's Arts Awards in the Top of the Harbor Ballroom at the Crowne Plaza Hotel. Five honorees received a special edition work on paper created by local artist Lis Schwitters entitled "Mark of Excellence." The honorees were Arts Patron, Albert and Micheline Sakharoff; Artist in the Community, Michele Chapin; Arts Leader, Chris Velasco; Arts Educator, Patricia Strickland; and Emerging Artist, Veronica Valadez. Members of the local band Big Bad Voodoo Daddy received a Certificate of Recognition for their roles as cultural ambassadors for Ventura. The Cultural Affairs Division of the City of Ventura, on behalf of former Mayor Brian Brennan, established The Mayor's Arts Awards in 2005 to recognize contributions to the cultural community by city residents, artists, educators, organizations, and business leaders. For more information visit [CityOfVentura.net](http://CityOfVentura.net).