

Earth Day 2009 Celebration Set for April 22nd at Central Park Gardens

Davis Farm to School Connection is celebrating its fourth annual *Recycled Art Faire* honoring Earth Day and Arbor Day at Central Park Gardens during Davis Farmers Market; Wednesday April 22, 2009 between 4:30-7p.m. Several local and state agencies, businesses, vendors and local groups will be partnering in this event. Crafts and art pieces derived from recycled materials will be showcased from Davis Schools and local artists, for the public to admire and in some cases purchase. Proceeds from sales will go directly to the participating artists, classes and vendors. Judging the art pieces will be Jobyna Kingsbury-Gankin, John Mott-Smith, and David Roser. Robert Vyvlecka and David Roser, prize-winning artists from the 2008 Yolo County Fair, will have their recycled art sculptures featured for the public to seek out within the garden to admire. Entry forms and additional information for the DavisRISE Recycled Art Faire is available by visiting www.davisrise.org.

Arbor Day will be celebrated, highlighting Davis' thirty-first year as a "Tree City, USA", and celebrating the third year of receiving the Arbor Day Foundation's Growth Award. Throughout the evening, everyone will be able to enjoy local fresh and prepared foods available from the Davis Farmers Market and vendors, as well as enjoying the musical entertainment.

The *Recycled Art Faire* event is focused on what Davis schools are doing, and what should continue for future generations. The Davis Farm to School Connection has partnered with the Davis Joint Unified School District over the past several years to reduce and recycle selected wastes in the schools through a Program called DavisRISE. "RISE" stands for "Recycling Is Simply Elementary" and the Program is in place at elementary, intermediate and secondary sites. DavisRISE Program efforts have saved the school District thousands of dollars and diverted several tons of solid waste that would otherwise go to the County landfill. Davis Waste Removal was the first, and has been the most important, DavisRISE Program partner.

Emily Griswold and steering committee members of Central Park Gardens and Master Gardeners will be stationed throughout the Central Park Gardens to answer questions visitors may have about plantings and overall design. The public is invited to stroll through the newly completed pathways. Craft stations will be located by the vegetable garden area for the enjoyment of children. Davis Garden Club and Davis Flower Arrangers will assist youngsters to create paper pots in which to plant a seedling to take with them for starting their own garden at home. Tree Davis invites children to stop at their table to make leaf-rubbings to celebrate the event. They will provide information on selecting the right tree for the right location as well as having an arborist available to answer tree questions.

Stationed around the outside of the gardens on the concrete walkway will be supporters, partners and vendors showcasing earth friendly products, providing information about sustainable products, and giving out many free items. These groups include Green Schools, VESPRO Earthrecycle Products, Davis Public Works, Davis Farm to School Connection, and the DavisRISE Program, and California Department of Conservation. Free western redbud trees will be provided by PG&E. West Coast Arborists will display examples of tables and benches made from milled hardwood trees removed from city streets. Whole Earth Festival recycled art pieces will also be showcased at this event.

Proceeds from their sales will directly benefit the 40th anniversary celebration of Whole Earth Festival to be held at UC Davis Quad, which is the largest and longest-running student produced music and art festival on the West Coast. The theme for the May 8-10 festival is "Sustainableability." <http://wef.ucdavis.edu/>

Dorothy Peterson, DavisRISE Coordinator, shares, "This *Recycled Art Faire* special event is an opportunity to focus on sustainability and celebrate the quality of life in Davis as well as ways on how to improve upon it. Everyday should be considered Earth Day."