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Children's Art Center launches new programs, seeks community support

By Michelle Keene

One of San Francisco's premier art programs for young children, The San Francisco Children's Art Center, is launching new programs this fall in the hopes of increasing its enrollment and galvanizing financial support from the community.

Founded in 1978, the Fort Mason-based children's art center continues to win praise from parents and kids alike. However, while wait lists to get into classes were once common prior to 2002, enrollment has been declining more recently with the economic downturn. According to Tessa Spargo, executive director of the San Francisco Children's Art Center, many families with children enrolled in classes started moving out of the Bay Area, and the art center has been



Starting early: a three-year old student learns to paint.

losing an effective source of advertising – word of mouth.

Spargo explained that the decrease in enrollment has had a direct impact on its revenues. But tuition income alone doesn't cover the costs of running the program, especially the center's community outreach program, which brings art classes to disadvantaged kids in homeless shelters and the transitional housing of Rafael House, among other inner-city programs. The center is a non-profit organization, and foundation grants have traditionally helped cover the gap between operating expenses and income from tuition. But grants have dwindled this year due to the unfavorable economic climate and competing interests. "This combination

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How Marina was saved: 1989 quake and fire to be recalled at fete Oct. 17

By Paul W. Lovinger

The 15th anniversary of the earthquake that mauled the Marina district and brought it national concern will be officially commemorated Sunday, October 17, on the Marina Green. Simultaneously, San Francisco celebrates the 50th birth-

day of the fireboat Phoenix, instrumental in rescuing this district.

The 15th anniversary of San Francisco's Neighborhood Emergency Response Team (NERT), which was organized in 1990, will also be observed (a bit prematurely).

Phoenix will be berthed in the Marina harbor near Scott Street and the public welcomed aboard between 2 and 4 p.m. on the 17th. Meanwhile displays by emergency and relief agencies may be viewed.



The devastating fires that tore through the Marina during the 1989 earthquake; the Phoenix fireboat that was instrumental in rescuing the district.



October 8 through 11 marks first Fleet Week without Blue Angels since 1981

Fleet Week makes its annual visit to the waters, piers and skies of San Francisco over Columbus Day weekend, Friday October 8 through Monday October 11, but the Blue Angels will not be performing. The precision flying team has wowed audiences with its daredevil antics during every Fleet Week since 1981 with



Snowbirds instead of Angels: the Canadian aerial acrobatic team, the Snowbirds, will practice and perform several times during Fleet Week.

the exception of 2001, when the entire week of events was canceled following the terrorist attacks of 9/11. Other events will go on as planned and tours

will also be given of military combat ships docked at San Francisco's piers. San Francisco's Fleet Week has been

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At 4:30 p.m. there will be a ceremony at which the story of the Loma Prieta earthquake and the Marina will be narrated, honorees will be introduced, and an extraordinary monument will

nies. Scheduled speakers include San Francisco Fire Chief Joanne M. Hayes-White and Supervisor Michela Alioto-Pier of District 2, which includes the Marina and Fillmore. James Dalessandro, author of the novel 1906, will review the 1989 events. Jazz vocalist Sony Holland and accordionist Ottmar Stubler will perform. An honored guest is to be Frank T. Blackburn, who as

Earthquake, continued page 2

In this month's Northside: No raw deals at Tartare

Since it opened in July, Tartare (550 Washington Street near Sansome) has been one of the most coveted tables in The City – a must for anyone who considers himself a foodie or wants to check out one of the most buzzed-about restaurants in years. Without a doubt, Tartare is a place to see and be seen. But most of all it's a place to experience the inventive, sparkling cuisine of George Morrone, one of the nation's top chefs ... For the full review, turn to Northside, page 12.



Tartare chef/owner George Morrone

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