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NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

August 12, 2025

New Youth Art Exhibition Opens at the Ventura County Government Center Hall of Administration Atrium Gallery

*Emotions on Display: A Powerful Exploration of Mental Health
by Youth in the Juvenile Justice System*

VENTURA, CA – *Emotions on Display*, a moving new art exhibition created by youth in the Ventura County Juvenile Facilities, is now open to the public at the Atrium Gallery in the County of Ventura Government Center. The exhibition runs through October 3, 2025.

Presented as part of the VibeWell Ventura County initiative, the exhibition is a collaboration between the County of Ventura, Ventura County Arts Council, and Interface Children and Family Services. *Emotions on Display* uses art to explore emotional expression and raise mental health awareness through the lens of young people within the juvenile justice system.

Featuring a collection of mixed media artwork, drawings, poems, and sketches, the exhibition offers a rare and powerful look at how creativity can be a tool for healing and communication among system-impacted youth. "Art can give voice to experiences that are often silenced," said Craig Rosen, interim executive director of Ventura County Arts Council. "*Emotions on Display* reminds us of the resilience and insight these young people carry, and how art can help illuminate paths to recovery and growth."

The exhibition is part of VibeWell Ventura County, an initiative funded through Ventura County Behavioral Health - Mental Health Services Act that uses arts and cultural programs to connect communities to mental health resources, reduce stigma, and increase overall well-being.

"Creativity has the power to unlock stories that might otherwise remain hidden," said Chief Probation Officer Ronald Miller II. "For the youth in our juvenile facilities, art becomes a voice for their emotions and experiences, telling stories of struggle, strength, and hope. At Ventura County Probation Agency, we're dedicated to supporting their journey toward healing and growth beyond the system."

***Emotions on Display* is free and open to the public weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at:**

Atrium Gallery

Hall of Administration

County of Ventura Government Center

800 S. Victoria Ave.

Ventura, CA 93009

About Ventura County Arts Council

Ventura County Arts Council (VCAC) advances the arts in Ventura County by providing arts education and opportunities in schools and other creative settings, by advocating, re-granting, and providing grant application support to local artists and arts organizations and artists, by providing art exhibition opportunities to artists, and by creating partnerships among artists, arts supporters, businesses, foundations, and county organizations. It strives to reach under-resourced communities with programs that offer equal access to the arts. VCAC was formed and incorporated as an independent 501(c)3 non-profit arts organization in 1997. It has been designated by the Ventura County Board of Supervisors as the State-Local Partner of the California Arts Council (CAC), with a mandate to serve the county's citizens in partnership with CAC.

For more information about VCAC, please visit <https://vcartscouncil.org/>.

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