

# Cheryl Ehlers Uses Her Passion for Art to Make a Difference in the Community

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Posted on February 10, 2013

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by: JENNIFER FRAKES | photos by [Soul of Photography](#)

Cheryl Ehlers defines art as “experiences, dreams, thoughts, feelings and passion,” and has dedicated her life to ensuring that aspiring artists have the opportunity to learn, create and grow. An accomplished artist herself, she is involved with many organizations, including Teri Inc., which serves those with autism or other developmental disabilities, the City of Encinitas Art Administration, Artsonia Kids Art Museum, San Dieguito Art Guild and the North County African American Women’s Association, all of which enrich the community and allow her to share her love of art with others. According to Cheryl, her interest in these organizations stems from her “desire to share in their missions to foster art education within local communities and amongst emerging artists.”

Cheryl is also the founder of The Stardust Arts, a non-profit visual art instruction program that serves young people in schools and both public and private agencies. Her inspiration for The Stardust Arts came from very special art instructor in her own life, Ms. Moncla. “She believed in my talent and pushed me to create from inside myself and try anything my heart desired,” revealed Cheryl. Through The Stardust Arts and all of Cheryl’s volunteer endeavors, she strives to impart this same gift to budding artists of all ages.

Her firm belief in giving back to the community is also rooted in her own family history. Cheryl's father was a decorated war hero, and her aunts were fearlessly outspoken civil rights activists. These influences helped Cheryl to understand the importance of using her talents to make a difference in the lives of those around her. "Doing what I love and touching lives is magical and very rewarding," expressed Cheryl.

Before settling in San Diego, Cheryl lived all over Europe; however, she thinks of her life in terms of people and experiences, rather than geographical locations. "Traveling and moving to a new school every two years left me with one thing that was easy to pack, my imagination. I really can't tell you how many schools I went to or name all the places I lived. I just remember the fascinating people, cultures, traditions and beauty of it all," explained Cheryl. She has lived in Carlsbad since 1985 and loves the quaint feel of the North County community and the commitment the region has to making the arts accessible to its residents.



#### At A Glance

Cheryl Ann Ehlers  
Carlsbad, CA

Teri Inc., Artsonia Kids Art Museum, Carlsbad Village Association, City of Encinitas Art Administration, San Dieguito Art Guild, Oceanside Museum of Art, San Diego Museum of Art Guild Artists, and North County African American Women's Association

- CITY OF ENCINITAS, ARTS ADMINISTRATION DEPARTMENT, Event Coordinator/Assistant for the 1st Annual Arts Festival
- THE STARDUST ARTS, A Visual Art Instruction Program, Owner, Art Director, Instructor
- CHERYL'S PARROTISE ART, Impressionist, Contemporary Visual Art, Owner, Artist
- SAN DIEGUITO ENGINEERING INC., Engineering, Surveying and Land Planning Firm, Director of Project Processing/Assistant Land Planner

3 brothers, married to Wayne Ehlers, (1) son, also artistic, lives locally.