

PROCLAMATION

The Lodi Arts Commission – 2026 Women in the Arts

WHEREAS, the City of Lodi recognizes that arts and culture are essential to a vibrant, inclusive, and thriving community, enriching quality of life, fostering creativity, and strengthening community connections. Women have played a vital and enduring role in advancing the arts in Lodi through leadership, advocacy, education, and service, often working behind the scenes to ensure access to meaningful cultural experiences for residents of all ages; and

WHEREAS, the Lodi Arts Commission annually honors Women in the Arts to recognize individuals who have demonstrated sustained commitment to the advancement, accessibility, and preservation of the arts within the Lodi community; and

WHEREAS, Judith Halstead has demonstrated exceptional dedication to the arts in Lodi through more than a decade of leadership with the Lodi Community Concert Association, including 11 years as President of the Board of Directors, helping guide an organization with roots dating back to 1946. Through her leadership, the Lodi Community Concert Association has continued its mission of providing high-quality, affordable, and diverse musical performances at Hutchins Street Square, enriching Lodi's cultural landscape with offerings spanning classical, Broadway, folk, country, and other musical traditions; and

WHEREAS, Judith Halstead has championed arts education and youth engagement by supporting annual student concert programs that bring live musical performances to approximately 800 fourth, fifth, and sixth grade students from Lodi schools, as well as supporting performing arts scholarships for graduating high school seniors pursuing higher education in the arts. Her commitment to community partnership-building has strengthened connections between the arts and local service organizations, schools, historical institutions, and community groups, ensuring the arts remain accessible, relevant, and resilient, even during periods of significant challenge such as the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her arts leadership, Judith Halstead has devoted 35 years to educating students within the Lodi Unified School District and continues to serve the broader community through historical preservation and civic engagement efforts;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that I, Ramon Yopez, Mayor of the City of Lodi, on behalf of the City Council, does hereby recognize and honor Judith Halstead as the 2026 Women in the Arts Honoree, celebrating her outstanding leadership, service, and lasting contributions to the cultural life of the Lodi community. The City of Lodi extends its sincere appreciation to the Lodi Arts Commission for its continued dedication to uplifting women whose work ensures the arts remain a cornerstone of community identity and belonging.

SIGNED on this 18th day of March, 2026.