

Message of day: 'Girls are cool'

FEMALE ARTISTS, CRAFT MAKERS,
MUSICIANS SHARE TALENTS AT EVENT

SAN LUIS OBISPO

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THE TRIBUNE

"Girls are cool," read one of the messages on a six-foot long canvas splashed with inspirational art Saturday at the Day With Creative Women.

The phrase rang true throughout Mission Plaza, where artists, craft makers, musicians and political activists gathered to show off local female talent.

The 27th annual event was produced by and benefits the Women's Community Center of San Luis Obispo County. Fifty vendors — all female, all selling hand-made goods — signed up to attend the fair. In addition, six musical acts performed free con-

certs and several poets and authors read from their works.

The Women's Community Center, known as the Women's Resource Center until two years ago, aims to empower women and direct them toward the services they need in the county, said event co-chair Dawn Williams.

Artist Dorothy Riggs said she hopes the two colorful canvases empower women around the world. Painted by children and adults at the event Saturday, the banners will hang at the Unitarian Universalist Fellowship on Aug. 26 for Women's Equality Day. Then Riggs wants to send them to places most in need of their inspiration, such as

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Deborah S. Hobbs, artist and ETTY KLINGER, watercolorist, work on their artwork at their combined booth at a "Day with Creative Women" in Mission Plaza Saturday.

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Women

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women's prisons, third-world countries and homes for pregnant or abused women.

"The children are amazing," Riggs said about their artistic contributions. "They have no inhibitions. They're such free spirits."

Children had no shortage of hands-on art activities at the fair. The Children's Corner provided supplies to make spinning tops, butterflies and caterpillars. Carly Stair, a Cal Poly psychology major, created the Children's Corner as her senior pro-

ject. She said she wanted to draw families to the fair by giving kids creative opportunities.

Richard and Coralee Dixon traveled from Bakersfield to browse the fair's collection of crafts — from jewelry to feathered masks to sculpted soap. The couple, crafts makers themselves, bought a piece of wood art and a handbag.

"If nothing else, we're here to take in the creativity," Coralee Dixon said.

Wendy Liepman came both to contribute and appreciate the day's artistic spirit. The singer and guitarist for folk act "Bob & Wendy" performed in the early afternoon. She stuck around for

"Blame Sally," a four-woman group including former local musicians Pam Delgado and Jeri Jones.

"I think it's a great event to showcase some remarkable female talent," Liepman said.

Janelle Younger of radio station K-OTTER compiled the musical lineup for the day.

"It feels like the best year musically," Younger said. "I'm amazed at the talent we have in this town."

Stained-glass artist Alison Kerns credited the music and the blue skies for one of her best sales days.

"It all worked together for a perfect show," she said.