

SANTA BARBARA  
**Summer Solstice**  
CELEBRATION

ELEPHANT PARADE



A Collaborative Project of Santa Barbara Solstice Celebration and Elephant Parade® USA



## Elephant Equinox, Sept. 21-22, 2024

Solstice launched the Solstice Art Box Contest at the September 21-22 Elephant Equinox in collaboration with the Elephant Parade®. The event featured Groovy Gary, one of the elephant sculptures from the Elephant Parade® created by Calico Cooper, Alice Cooper's daughter.



Featured in the VOICE Magazine!

## Fall Equinox and Summer Solstice Bring the Elephants

**LOCAL ARTIST ENGAGEMENT WAS HIGH** as the Summer Solstice crew celebrated two back to back events: Fall Equinox and Elephant Appreciation day at Legacy Arts Santa Barbara. During the festivities, an call was opened, good until November 15th, for artists of all stripes to submit their designs for life-size baby elephant sculptures that will accompany the 2025 Elephant Day Parade.

The Elephant Parade is an exhibit of painted statues that decorate a city briefly, and then are auctioned off to raise awareness and money towards elephant preservation and conservation. Groovy Gary, one of the Elephant Parade's statuesque ambassadors, was sent out to inspire Santa Barbarans to submit their designs, with the goal of putting Santa Barbara on the map for 2025.

In support of this campaign, City Council Member Oscar Gutierrez, Legacy Arts founders Crispin Barrymore and Laela Duncan, and artists of all ages participated. Towards this goal, Barrymore pledged \$2500 for a "blank" Elephant to be painted by a local artist, to be announced.

Solstice is actively seeking sponsoring partners to bring the Elephant Parade® to our city in 2025. If you would like more information, contact

Penny@ [artstaff@solsticeparade.com](mailto:artstaff@solsticeparade.com)

[www.solsticeparade.com](http://www.solsticeparade.com)



Groovy Gary, ambassador of the Elephant Parade



Jenni Nnoli and some submissions to the Elephant Day Parade







The Solstice Art Box Contest was extended and promoted at our next event -- the opening of the Michael Towbes Plaza at the Library. Hundreds of kids and parents stopped by - producing numerous new entries into the Elephant ArtBox Contest. The entries were then put online and the public voted for their favorites.

## Art Box Contest

Sept-Dec. 2024

### Top Entries in Elephant Parade® Art Contest

These are the top entries in our Santa Barbara Art Box Contest. There are two categories: YOUTH & ADULT. Send your top YOUTH entry pick by number and your top three favorites for ADULTS to [artstaff@solsticeparade.com](mailto:artstaff@solsticeparade.com).



[Show More](#)

The contest was judged by members of the Solstice Board of Directors, community members, and local fine artists and graphic designers who were not participating in the contest. Here are some of the entries online: <https://www.solsticeparade.com/posterart/top-ten-art-box-submissions>



# A Celebration of Art, Community & Conservation



### Christopher Noxon

In the professional category, the winning entry is Christopher Noxon's "Phantasmagorical Elephant".

Christopher's illustrations have been featured in The New York Times, The Hollywood Reporter, The Undo List, Modern Loss. At some point in his past, Christopher worked as a costumed character at Universal Studios, which may be another indicator of why he answered the "call" for artists from Solstice -- in addition to his desire to portray "the playful and the unexpected."

He also spent 30 years as a noted journalist for national magazines and newspapers, contributing to The New Yorker, Details, The New York Times Magazine, Los Angeles Magazine, and Salon besides his books and a whole lot more.



The winners of the Solstice Art Box Contest Christopher Noxon (professional category) and Elena Pablo (youth category) received an Art Box.



### Elena Pablo

Twelve year old Elena Pablo, a student at Washington Elementary School, is the winner in the youth category for her design. Elena says "It makes me feel proud of my art, and encourages me. "I want to become an art teacher." She completed her drawing with colored pencils at Plaza Palooza, the opening of the Michael Towbes Plaza at the Santa Barbara Library. Check out short video clip of Elena [here](#).



Winner Christopher Noxon, agreed to paint the blank elephant, submitted his maquette (miniature pictured to the left) of his design.

"Phantasmagorical Landscapelephant" by Christopher Noxon was approved as part of the international Elephant "herd."





Another fun turn of events: Elephant Parade® provided a blank Elephant to provide an activation for Earth Day 2025! Hundreds of kids chalked the life-sized blank elephant and created their designs on the Elephant Parade® coloring page.



After Earth day, the blank elephant was cleaned, prepped, painted white, then a base coat of pink was applied to prepare the life-sized baby elephant sculpture to be painted by Christopher for the Parade.

There was a Paint the Pachyderm Party at the Workshop with Solstice artists assisting Christopher Noxon in applying his design to the elephant. He first sketched out his design, making some slight adjustments. Following his direction, Solstice artists, Board Members and volunteers did the initial filling in of colors. Then Christopher spent the next couple weeks fine tuning and finishing his design.







A platform was built and the Phantasmagorical landscapephant had its premier performance in the 2025 Solstice Parade, and was on display in the Summer Solstice Festival in Alameda Park Saturday and Sunday June 21-22.



The Elephant was then in the Ojai Fourth of July Parade and is now on display in the courtyard of the Ojai Valley Museum, until the next event!