

The Farmington Area Arts Commission is pleased to announce the selection of artist Jan Jacobs as 2009 Artist-in-Residence, and will present Lisa Muscio, Farmington Hills Youth Theatre Director, with the 2009 Distinguished Service to the Arts Award.

The Artist-in-Residence award is given each year to a resident of Farmington or Farmington Hills who displays exceptional talent and artistic accomplishments.

This year marks the 34th year of recognizing excellence in the arts in the Farmington community. The Distinguished Service to the Arts Award is given each year to recognize outstanding service to the community in the creative arts by a group or individual. The awards consist of a cash prize and plaque.

The awards will be presented in conjunction with the Art Commission's Student Art Awards and the Farmington Artist Club Awards at a special reception and ceremony to be held Wednesday, April 22, at the Costick Center, 28600 W. Eleven Mile Road, in Farmington Hills. Networking will begin at 6:30 p.m., and the ceremony at 7 p.m. The public is invited to attend.

Muscio is the founder of Sky's the Limit Productions, which works in cooperation with the City of Farmington Hills Cultural Arts Division to produce the Farmington Hills Youth Theatre. Muscio has been described as "having a natural, wonderful gift to make all children feel special".

Under her direction, the theatre program operates with the goal of not creating stars, but giving as many children as possible a chance to perform, and is known for making even the shiest children "shine with self confidence."

Muscio has taken the Youth Theatre to area hospitals to perform for sick children, and also to area elementary schools. She has also been active in supporting scholarships for children in the arts through the Weinstein fund, and was a strong leader in the passage of the recent Farmington Hills Parks and Recreation millage, a portion of which goes to support the arts in the City.

Muscio also created HIT ("Help Improve the Theater"), a fund which has provided donations for lights and curtains for the Costick Center stage. An actor in her own right, Muscio is a long-time supporter of the Farmington Players, and has performed in many of their productions.

Jan Jacobs, 2009 Artist in Residence, actually works in two media: fiber arts and theater.

Jacob's beautiful quilts range from the traditional, using techniques passed down through generations, to pop art designs. Jacob's work has won six blue ribbons as well as "Best of Show" at the Michigan State Fair, and has been exhibited in many galleries and exhibits. She has created quilts for underprivileged children, AIDS babies and for children who lost parents during the 9-11 attacks.

An active member and supporter of the Farmington Players, Jacobs is currently rehearsing for her role in "Sweet Charity," She has also performed for the Novi Theatre, Jewish Community Center, Farmington Community Theater, and the Bloomfield Players.

"Jan expresses her love for art not just in what she creates, but also in how she lives — a real testimony to the spirit of an Artist in Residence," said state Rep. Vicki Barnett.