



**Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce
Convention & Visitors Bureau**
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Chamber grants \$2,500 to Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council

The Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce has made it a priority to work closely with area tourism based non-profit organizations to improve the coordination of visitor activities and tourist outreach. As part of a meeting of the Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors in July, a grant of \$2,500 for the Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council was approved.

The Chamber funding will be used to help fund the Open Studio Art Tours, which will be held Oct. 24-25 and Oct. 31-Nov. 1, 2009. The annual Open Studio Art tours event attracts hundreds of people from around Southern California to our beautiful Morongo Basin area. The tours allow these visitors a unique opportunity to experience working art studios and purchase original art affordably directly from local artists.

Chamber President Gary Daigneault said, "By partnering with Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council in promoting the Open Studios event to more potential visitors, the entire community benefits. These visitors frequent local stores, restaurants, hotels, and museums during their stay in the Basin, bringing tourism revenue to our area. The Open Studio Art Tours is the largest Basin-wide event that highlights artists, performers, and musicians, and in turn supports all of our local businesses, our special communities, and the local economy".

The Morongo Basin Cultural Arts Council's mission is to inspire and enliven the community through the arts, and enhance the cultural and economic health of the region. It accomplishes its vision through a range of activities and initiatives, large and small, local, outside the Basin and online.

For the 2009-2010 fiscal year, the Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce was allotted funding for grants in its contract with the City of Twentynine Palms. Previously this year, the Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce granted funds to the Action Council for Twentynine palms to support promotion of its mural program.

Daigneault said, "The grants are a win-win for both the tourist-based non-profits and area merchants. "In promoting the Open Studio Art Tours and the Action Council Mural Project, we all benefit. Those extra tourist dollars translate into additional opportunities for all Twentynine Palms businesses to capture out-of-town dollars flowing into our unique city."

Organizations wishing to receive a grant from the Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce must complete an application process. Applications are due June 30, 2010, for grant projects to be completed in the 2010-2011 fiscal year.

For more information or to obtain a grant application, call the Twentynine Palms Chamber of Commerce at (760) 367-3445.