

## Directors Message:

Everyone is aware that these past few years have been very challenging for all of us, and the City of Torrance is not exempt from the impacts of this downturned economy. As such, the Community Services Department has been looking for ways to continue offering high quality services and programs while keeping the needs of our residents in mind.

To be fair and equitable to everyone, the Department conducted a broad market rate study of all recreational and cultural programs and class fees within our neighboring cities. The study showed that Torrance residents have benefited for years from offering our high quality programs and classes below the average market rate, especially in comparison to similar offerings by similar-sized cities, non-profit and for-profit agencies.

To be able to continue offering a broad and diverse selection of programs and classes, despite this challenging economy, the Department had to raise fees in these areas up to the Average Market Rate identified by the market study. We realize that you are also affected by our present economic challenges and may find this increase difficult. In spite of this, I hope you'll continue to see the real value in our classes and programs, offered by dedicated and professional staff members at these new rates.

We have done our best in the past to keep offering our classes and programs at below market average rates to help enrich your lives. In these times, we believe that to maintain the high quality services we offer, increasing rates is a viable option. We continue to have dedicated, skilled and professional staff members who are passionate in what they do so I believe that our classes and programs will continue to grow in attendance. After all, the physical, mental, emotional and overall benefit one receives from engaging in these programs and classes is invaluable.

We thank you for your understanding, your continued patronage and we look forward to seeing you at one of our programs.