

## Getting Older? This Deck is Not Stacked Against You

### Use Your Art to Fight Stereotypes About Aging and Celebrate the Artistic Contributions of Elders

The Sierra Madre Playhouse, a 99 seat non profit theater, is producing two plays in the near future and in the spring on themes of aging and the choices, pastimes, and wisdom of seniors. The plays are “The Gin Game” by D.L Coburn (September 8 – October 6<sup>th</sup>) and “Tuesdays With Morrie” by Jeffrey Hatcher and Mitch Albom, based on the book by Mitch Albom ( in spring 2019).

These plays have inspired us to plan a group of programs “The Arts of Aging” as part of our “Digging Deeper” series of programs that engage the community in the themes and issues of productions at Sierra Madre Playhouse. We will be creating a lobby exhibit to shine light on some of these issues.

A key element of this lobby will be artist-created, enlarged playing cards that feature “face cards” illustrating people who have continued their artistic practice as they age or pastimes that enrich the lives of seniors.

Have you got an artist – any field – dance, theater, visual arts, literature- who you would like to honor by creating a customized “face card” as part of this deck honoring mature artists? Here is how you can get involved:

**Opportunity Open to Artists of All Ages** as long as directions, deadlines, and dimensions are followed

**Subject TWO Choices**

1. Pick a person in the arts (or yourself) who is continuing in their art participation past the age of 55. We have suggestions if you need an idea. We aim to spotlight many different art forms and the diversity of our community.

OR

2. Choose a pastime or artistic pursuit that a senior can actively participate in – ceramics, dance, singing, fishing, Knitting, quilting, card playing, going to the theater etc., etc. etc.

**Media** – any original 2 dimensional media is OK – drawing, painting, collage, photo, photoshop (following current copyright guidelines) as long as it can be photographed or scanned – no sculpture

**Contact us to get your assigned face card type:** Email Diane Siegel at [diane.siegel@sierramadreplyhouse](mailto:diane.siegel@sierramadreplyhouse) to tell us the subject/theme of your face card – we will assign you a card – example: Queen of Hearts, Clubs, Diamonds, or Spades, or similarly King, Jack or Ace of one of the card suits .

**Dimensions** – Create your card as an image that is sized to fit a 8 1/2 “ x 11” size with the image and text in a “safe area” 6.667” x 9.681 “ . See the template for complete dimensions.

**Description of subject:** Tell us in about 100 words about your subject. Be sure to include Who is in the picture – name of artist (if it is a real) person – What is their art form? The reason you chose them to honor. If your subject/person is a more generic representative of an artist doing art or a pastime of some kind – describe what they are doing and why it might enrich the lives of seniors. You might want to talk about the stereotype of aging it breaks. If you are portraying a living person – ask their permission to make them the subject of your art and tell them they will be in a lobby display and if funding is found .– a deck of cards sold to support the Sierra Madre Playhouse.

Your 100 word description may be edited for creation of labels or a text panel in the lobby.

Please include your name, age (if you wish) and the city where you live

**Release form** – You will be sent an artist’s release form once you are assigned a card to create. We ask for the use of the image in our lobby (September 5 – October 10) and permission to use the design in a possible standard size set of playing cards to be produced by the Sierra Madre Playhouse and sold to support the work of the Playhouse. (should we find funding to produce it.)

**Submit** your work as a 8 and a half by 11 inch image in a jpeg at 300dpi. Send it to Diane Siegel at [diane.siegel@sierramadreplyhouse.org](mailto:diane.siegel@sierramadreplyhouse.org) by August 31<sup>st</sup> along with the 100 word description of your subject in a word document.

**Deadline** for our initial lobby display we are asking for work to be submitted on or before August 31<sup>st</sup>. If this deadline is too short , but you still want to participate in the project contact us. We will possibly keep adding cards through the beginning of October. Plus we may need to collect more cards for our custom “pack”. We would like to talk to you about it.

**Fees-** There are no fees to participate and no financial remuneration for the artists. We can provide a letter saying that you have donated artwork to a non-profit.

**Purpose** To honor mature artists (over 55) and to inspire all people to participate in the arts throughout their lifetimes. And to support the efforts of the Sierra Madre Playhouse .