



The Calabash Awards were created in 1999 with the goal of creating cross-cultural awareness and understanding. At an "Ethnofete" meeting that included members of Santa Cruz County's Cultural Diversity Committee, it was decided that an awards showcase

honoring local ethnic artists who excelled at their cultural art form, would be a good vehicle to accomplish this goal. By annually spotlighting the ethnic arts, the community is educated, and the artists are kept in the public eye.

Why was it named "Calabash Awards?" Gourds are used by traditional cultures the world over, for both functional and inspirational purposes. Gourds are used to carry and drink water, store grains and other foods, for clothing and jewelry, and for musical instruments. Our beautiful gourd awards have been designed and created by gourd artist Maria Teresa Woythaler this year. Each gourd is unique and hand crafted by Maria Teresa.

The Calabash Awards honor excellence in the "ethnic arts" in music, dance, percussion, spoken word and visual arts. Awards are given to Santa Cruz County artists who have a history of presenting quality work, and whose contributions to our community have enriched us all. Each of the honorees is introduced by a "celebrity presenter." All artists perform their art at the awards show, creating a very exciting event.

In addition to the honor and recognition the Award brings, there are direct benefits to the artists, such as professional photographs and publicity, and video of the event shown repeatedly on local TV.

Artists are chosen by a special committee and nominations are welcome from community members, which are carried forward each year.

The Calabash Awards Showcase fosters cross-cultural communication by exposing audience members to the rich ethnic art traditions of the many different cultures found within Santa Cruz County.

THE CALABASH AWARDS

**Sixth Annual Showcase Honoring
Excellence in the Ethnic Arts
in Santa Cruz County**

**March 13, 2005
Cabrillo College Theatre**