



The Humble Calabash Gourd: Inspiration for Humanity...

Legends from around the world tell us about the gourd as a symbol of human ingenuity, endurance and cultural exchange.

More than a mere source of sustenance, the gourd has been adapted to serve as a source of inspiration for many cultures. As water vessels, gourds enabled people to travel, serving our never-ending quest to seek out new worlds. And for centuries travelers would look into the sky at the "Big Dipper," known to some cultures as the "Drinking Gourd," and know that if they just "followed the drinking gourd" they could find their way to a new and better place. Today, gourds are still made into musical instruments like drums, banjos & shekeres to become voices for sharing our spirits across the continents.

Santa Cruz County is blessed with a rich multi-cultural heritage; our resident artists hail from every corner of the globe. At the onset of the new millenium, the **Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County** partnered with the members of the **Santa Cruz Ethnic Arts Network (SCEAN)** and other community supporters to launch the first **Calabash Awards**. The awards recognize the achievements of artists of all cultures in their individual efforts to perfect their art forms, as well as for their contributions to our community as inspirational voices to us all. Through **The Calabash Awards**, our citizens celebrate the beauty and significance that vibrant, diverse artistic expression brings to our lives.

Already recognized as an annual tradition, **The Calabash Awards** is a premier event for promoting cross-cultural exchange across our entire County. As a signature event of the **Cultural Council**, and as one component of the Council's commitment to fortifying cultural diversity, the awards foster new opportunities for all artists and their audiences, always strengthening the artistic heritage of our evolving community.

THE CALABASH AWARDS

Third Annual Showcase Honoring
Excellence in the Ethnic Arts

March 10, 2002
Cabrillo College Theatre