

The Banning Cultural Alliance announces the hiring of Michelle Williams as their new event's coordinator, with her first event to be the organization of the 2010 Art Hop that will take place on May 1, in downtown Banning.

"The Alliance has done a fabulous job already," said Williams, who added that she hopes to bring "new things that local residence have not seen before," to the events that she will work on.

This is a second, part time job for Williams, who also works for the Beaumont Chamber of Commerce where she organized their highly successful SLOB Market Night, Good Morning Beaumont networking breakfast and Beaumont Chamber Mega Mixers.

"My passion in life is keeping businesses in business," states the energetic Williams who credits herself with "thinking outside the box" and retaining strong relationships with local businesses.

"I want Banning and the Alliance to succeed," said Williams, who was born and raised in the Pass area. A current resident of Banning she wants to see "the arts" and the many local talented artists stay in the Pass area and Banning, along with the pride in community that she wants to help Banning preserve and continue to develop.

Williams is co owner to Oak Valley Photography, along with her husband Bruce. The Williams have two children, Christopher age 7 and Sebastian 6.

Williams will replace outgoing event coordinator, Gin McMillen, who lives outside the area and left her part time position with the Alliance for a full time position.

"We are grateful for all that Gin has done while working for the Alliance as we began," said executive director Carol Newkirk. "She has been a good friend to this community and the Alliance," she added, "not having her with us is a loss."

About the new event's coordinator: "Michelle has confidence, and experience working with businesses, vendors and community, said Newkirk." She has the asset of working with both the Banning and Beaumont chambers, knowing their members and we look forward to a long and prosperous relationship for the Alliance, the City of Banning and the Pass area," she continued.

If you would like more information on participating in the Art Hop as a vendor, or for more information on all events with the Banning Cultural Alliance, contact Michelle Williams at (951) 922-0500.