

## Ted Townsend Award

Kathryn Lubahn

Submitted by Jana Garnett

Kathryn Lubahn is an inspiration and role model for many. In the face of blindness and other physical limitations, Kathryn challenges the boundaries. Like a warrior, Kathryn is determined, deliberate, tenacious and reflective. Kathryn contributes to the campus community through her art work and positive attitude.

### Kathryn's Words of Gratitude

Thank you so much for announcing my win. I returned to college, in part, as a form of rehabilitation for my disabilities. SBCC became a way for me to discover how to create my new place in society. My academic journey grew into a desire to understand humanity and how to support harmony and health within our societies. I believe that art has always been the way humanity finds itself into my heart. In my Mexican literature class I learned what aspirational capital is. This is the ability to maintain one's dreams and hopes amidst adversity. Most people seem to have a few difficulties in life to overcome. Mine is - I am a legally blind artist, Retinitis Pigmentosa, with Multiple sclerosis. Community colleges foster our aspirations. I find art and education irresistible and this is my aspirational capital. I loved reading about Ted Townsend; that he focused on what he loved. That is what SBCC is helping me to do. I am combining my SBCC studies in natural sciences, writing, ethnic studies, communication, art history, and studio art, to explore the healing of, and shaping of identity through art. I am moved by our human resilience and our ability to heal. I am currently researching, through an independent study with professor Melinda Gandara, the healing and reshaping of feminine identity by four Mexican female artists, through what I call Fourth Dimensional Sacred Art. I was surprised and pleased by the number of books, about, and by them, that have been, and are currently available. Many of the newer ones are not in our Luria Library. I have felt hampered by how expensive art history books are. I have my wish list of

books that I am saving up for. And I am such a curious and impatient person. Can you imagine my unbounded delight to discover you have granted me funds to buy books? I thank you from the depths of my soul and with the glee in my mind. My quest for knowledge and identity continues.

I am so very, very grateful to you all.

Sincerely yours,

Kathryn Lubahn