

**For Immediate Release**

Contact: Yoon Lee, Director of Media Relations  
 415.553.3338, [ylee@KQED.org](mailto:ylee@KQED.org)  
[www.kqed.org/press](http://www.kqed.org/press)

## **KQED Premieres New Seasons of *QUEST*, *Spark*, and *Check, Please! Bay Area***

**All new episodes of local programs begins March 17 on KQED 9HD**

San Francisco, CA, March 6, 2009 – This spring, KQED presents all new seasons of three, local, award-winning television series, covering Northern California science and environment, Bay Area artists and art organizations, and reviews of favorite restaurants. Produced in high definition, these programs offer more illuminating and diverse explorations of our natural world, culture, and lifestyle, in places like Monterey, Napa, San Francisco, and Silicon Valley.

### ***QUEST*** ([www.kqed.org/quest](http://www.kqed.org/quest))

#### **Premieres Tuesday, March 17 at 7:30pm**

KQED's multimedia science and environment series launches its third television season on KQED 9HD (Comcast 709), with new stories investigating the pioneering work of scientists and researchers across Northern California. In its premiere television episode, *QUEST* takes to the skies above Mountain View, exploring the next generation of zeppelins and their fiery past. Then, meet the chefs from the **Monterey Bay Aquarium** and the **San Francisco Zoo**, who whip up krill shakes, squid tacos and chimp treats to keep their animal residents fully satisfied. *QUEST* also continues its multi-layered approach to reporting on science and environmental issues with stories produced for television, radio, and the web, along with educator guides that meet California's science teaching standards.

### ***Spark*** ([www.kqed.org/spark](http://www.kqed.org/spark))

#### **Premieres Wednesday, March 18 at 7:30pm**

Discover art from the Bay Area and beyond! This March, *Spark* kicks off its seventh season with profiles of local artists with worldwide followings. *Spark* first visits 88-year-old **Wayne Thiebaud** in a rare interview with the famed painter. Still passionate about his art and still teaching future artists through classes at the University of California at Davis, Thiebaud continues to paint on a daily basis. He invites *Spark* into the studio watch the creation of his latest work. *Spark* then dives into the creative world of singer-songwriter **Vienna Teng**. A native of the Bay Area, Teng always considered music a hobby as she worked towards a career as a software engineer. In 2002, she took a leap of faith and decided to pursue her dreams in music. Now Teng can boast four albums and over a hundred performances worldwide, and *Spark* is there as she returns to the Bay Area for a triumphant homecoming performance at the Palace of Fine Arts.

-more-

***Check, Please! Bay Area*** ([www.kqed.org/checkplease](http://www.kqed.org/checkplease))

**Premieres Friday, March 20 at 8:30pm**

This primetime local program reveals for the first time which restaurants are being reviewed in its fourth season. Among the **27 restaurants** featured this season, *Check, Please! Bay Area* will visit the Basque Cultural Center, Shanghai Dumpling King, Farmerbrown, Poggio, Oliveto, The Old Clam House, Mustards Grill, and Sahn Maru Korean BBQ. Each episode features three guests who are local diners, not professional restaurant critics. Each guest chooses their favorite restaurant and the other two guests visit that restaurant under total anonymity. After trying each other's restaurant recommendations, the guests discuss, dispute, and celebrate their dining experiences on the show. *Check, Please! Bay Area* has taken home a James Beard Award, multiple Northern California Emmy Awards, and recently was voted Best Public TV Show by *SF Weekly*, and Best Locally Produced TV Show by *San Francisco Bay Guardian*.

Schedule interviews with our producers, talent, or episode guests. Screeners are available by request.

**KQED** ([www.kqed.org](http://www.kqed.org)) is a service of Northern California Public Broadcasting, Inc. (NCPB). KQED Public Television, the nation's most-watched public television station, is the producer of local and national series such as *QUEST*; *Check, Please! Bay Area*; *Jacques Pépin: More Fast Food My Way*; and *Jean-Michel Cousteau: Ocean Adventures*. KQED's digital television channels include 9HD, Life, World, Kids and V-me, and are available 24/7 on Comcast. KQED Public Radio (88.5 FM in San Francisco and 89.3 FM in Sacramento), home of *Forum* with Michael Krasny and *The California Report*, is the most-listened-to public radio station in the nation with an award-winning news and public affairs program service. KQED Education Network brings the impact of KQED to thousands of teachers, students, parents and the general public through workshops, community screenings and multimedia resources. KQED Interactive offers video and audio podcasts and live radio stream at [www.kqed.org](http://www.kqed.org), featuring unique content on one of the most-visited station sites in public broadcasting.

#####