AVArts

December 2025

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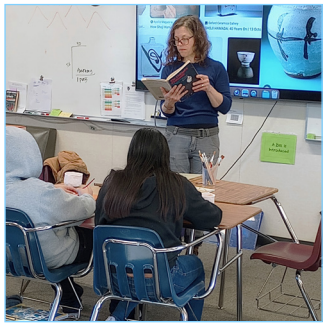
Dear Community Arts Supporter,

Since 1999 Anderson Valley Arts (AVArts) has been dedicated to supporting arts in the Anderson Valley community. Run entirely by volunteer members and with the participation and support of the community, AVArts brings diverse, quality, supplemental arts programs to Anderson Valley schools and awards scholarships to deserving students. With the generous involvement of local artists, craftspeople, educators, businesses and donors, AVArts strives to make the arts a more visible and important presence in our community. Our annual December update shares news about the past year.

During the 2024-2025 school year AVArts continued to support arts projects carried out in the Anderson Valley Unified School District schools and award scholarships to graduating high school seniors. This funding is made possible through the continued support of our donors, *the Amy Ensign-Barstow Memorial Fund at the East Bay Community Foundation, and the George and Ruth Bradford Foundation.*

Arts in the Schools Program **Grants**

AVArts funded four *Arts in the Schools Program* projects during the 2024-2025 school year.



Ceramic Arts in Medieval World History Project with artist Jess Thompson of the *Cider Creek Collective*, the two 7th grade World History classes learned about the history of Japanese tea cups and Chinese blue and white porcelain. Students designed and created their own cups. The 7th graders also created pinch pot style cups inspired by the white and red styles of Mesoamerica with Ms. Honegger. Using their completed cups, students explored different regions of the world by drinking diverse traditional beverages.

Leather Working in Early US History Project with artist Brittany Davis of *Brass + Blade* in the 8th grade United States History classes which included leather working workshops. Students learned how to cut straight or curved lines using rotary cutters, use a ruler to measure and mark even lines, use a hole punch, use a rivet press, stamp designs and sew with waxed thread. They made leather pouches similar to the style soldiers in the Continental Army may have used during the American Revolution.

Mosaic Bench Project with artist Martha Crawford in the JR/SR High School After School Program, worked with several 7th-11th graders. The students learned the fundamentals of mosaic art through hands-on projects. Each project included exploring mosaic pattern and imagery, cutting tiles into tesserae, and adhering and grouting the tessarae to various substrates. The combined lessons led them to collaborate on a mosaic for one of the seven concrete benches at the JR/SR High School.

AVES Pomo Mural Project was a collaboration with Senior Ananda Mayne, local artists, educators, and Pomo Tribal members to create a mural that reflects Pomo life in Anderson Valley and celebrates the cultural heritage and natural beauty of the region. Ananda worked with tribal members Anjelica and Bernadette Smith throughout the design process teaching students Pomo history, traditions and culture which 4th-6th grade students illustrated in the mural design. *Supporters included AVArts, the Anderson Valley Land Trust, and the Navarro River Resources Center.*

Arts Scholarships for Graduating Seniors Awards

AVArts presented awards to five students at 2025 *Scholarships Award Night* on April 22, 2025.
The awards will support their continuing education, including them in the arts.

The recipients are:

Emilia Bennett to attend Lewis & Clark College with a focus on creative writing and playwriting as well as stage, set, and costume design.

Natalie Lopez-Mendoza to attend Santa Rosa Junior College to complete an AA in culinary arts.

Keily Espinoza to attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo to study construction management as well as continue her creative work in photography and welding.

Lola Brodie to attend Santa Rosa Junior College and study wildlife exploring it through drawing, writing, and song.

Miguel Marron to attend Santa Rosa Barber College to obtain his barber's license.

AVArts was impressed with the scholarship recipients and their plans for making the arts part of their lives.
We wish them a future full of discovery, creativity, and inspiration!

News from *Arts Scholarships for Graduating Seniors* Recipients

Nathan McMath, the new music teacher at Anderson Valley Elementary School and the JR/SR High Schools is no stranger to the Valley. He grew up in Yorkville and attended local Anderson Valley schools, graduating in 2000.

Receiving a scholarship from the AV Arts Foundation, Nathan went on to major in saxophone performance at the University of North Texas. After receiving his degree, he spent a year touring the U.S. and Caribbean as a jazz musician. Nathan has performed and taught music in China, Dubai, Madagascar, Tunisia, and Laos.

He feels that music opens doors and provides connection between people. Nathan says his Music study gave him concrete skills such as listening carefully, practicing with discipline, and collaborating with others. He looks forward to helping develop the musical and artistic abilities of the students here in Anderson Valley as he teaches in the elementary and secondary schools!

AVArts wishes to express appreciation to our community of supporters for helping us continue to promote and support thriving arts experiences and opportunities for all students in our community!

With gratitude, Anderson Valley Arts:
Dona Abbey, Deanna Apfel, Martha Crawford, Peggy Dart, Paula Gray, Cora Hubbert, Patty Liddy, Nathan McMath, Barbara Nelson, Sandra Rubin and Jody Williams.

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AVArts Arts Education for All!