



December 2020

Dear Community Arts Supporter,



Anderson Valley Arts (AVArts) has been dedicated to supporting arts in the Anderson Valley community through funding arts programs in our schools and awarding student scholarships since 1999. As a small, local non-profit which generates funding primarily through volunteer events and which is run entirely by volunteer members, AVArts depends on community participation and support to help us bring diverse, quality supplemental arts programs to Anderson Valley schools that would otherwise not be possible and to award scholarships to deserving students. With the generous involvement of many talented local artists, craftspeople, educators, businesses and donors, AVArts strives to reinforce community spirit and make the arts a more visible and important presence in our community.

As AVArts funds school and community arts programs, events and scholarships which take place during the school year, we are sending out this fourth annual update mid-year to ask for your support by making a tax deductible donation. This past year despite the impacts of COVID-19 on our lives, communities and schools, AVArts funded two important arts programs (see immediately below) which were carried out at the junior and senior high school—arts programs made possible with the continued support of you our donors, the *Amy Ensign-Barstow Memorial Fund at the East Bay Community Foundation* and the *George and Ruth Bradford Foundation*. With the continued impact of COVID-19 on schools, AVArts reached out to Anderson Valley K-12 teachers at the start of the 2020-2021 school year to encourage them to apply to AVArts for support including materials and online resources to help them carry out arts through distance learning.

### **Arts in the Schools Program Grants**



The *Multicultural Dance Project* which partnered dancer and retired Mendocino County teacher Jane Corey with AVJ&SHS Physical Education Teacher Jason Page to carry out dance sessions in his junior high school P.E. classes from October 2019 through March 2020.



Students were engaged in working on rhythm, aerobic stamina, coordination, movement vocabulary and listening to music which provided them an opportunity to connect and communicate non-verbally through moving together in playful ways. Improvisation, partner and group dances were introduced to students using music from a variety of folk and classical traditions for warm-ups, dance fundamental lessons and specific dances with the goal of building a dance vocabulary while comparing and contrasting different music and movements.



The *Panther Art Project* which brought artist and arts educator Colleen Schenck into AVJ&SHS Teacher Georgette Patterson's Special Day junior high class to engage students in visual arts September 2019 through January 2020.



Art works of Georgia O'Keefe, Henri Matisse and Andy Warhol were viewed to stimulate ideas and illustrate different approaches to painting. Class discussions helped students to see the ways that the artists used paint, how that contributed to the overall expression of the work and then how students could use the techniques in their own paintings. Other art media and techniques explored included Day of the Dead/Día de Muertos crafts (papel picado, paper flower making and Ojo de Dios or God's Eyes), polymer clay techniques for bead making and small sculptures, mixed media assemblage and image transfer.

### **Arts Scholarships for Graduating Seniors/ Special Arts Related Scholarship Awards**

As noted above, the 2019-2020 school year was significantly impacted by COVID-19 including a shift to distance learning in March 2020 and putting on hold many graduating seniors' plans to pursue education beyond high school. This was the first year since our inception that AVArts did not receive applications for the *Arts Scholarships for Graduating Seniors* and regrettably no awards were made. AVArts hopes to receive applications this year for both the *Arts Scholarships for Graduating Seniors* and the *Special Arts Related Scholarships* available to support students still in school in attending special arts classes, workshops and summer programs!

### **An Invitation to Support AVArts**

We're reaching out to personally invite you, our core community arts supporters, to continue to help support us through making a tax deductible donation to AVArts and hope the exceptional arts programs AVArts continues to support will inspire you to do so! Checks can be made out to Anderson Valley Arts and sent to us in the enclosed envelope. Thank you for supporting us in any way you are able to—your generous contributions are essential in helping AVArts continue to promote and support thriving arts experiences and opportunities for all students in our community!

Most appreciatively,

Anderson Valley Arts

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