



December 2022

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 annual update to share news about our past year and also ask for your support by making a tax deductible donation. This past year AVArts supported arts projects carried out at both Anderson Valley Junior & Senior High School (AVJ&SHS) and Anderson Valley Elementary School (AVES) and awarded scholarships for AVJ&SHS graduating seniors! This funding for arts in the schools and students continuing to make the arts part of their education beyond high school is 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*.

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

AVArts funded two *Arts in the Schools Program* projects in the Anderson Valley Unified School District during the 2021-2022 school year, the first full year of returned in person learning during the ongoing reality of living with COVID-19:

**AVJ&SHS Teacher Appreciation & Gratitude Project** with Ali Cook's 7th-8th Grade English Language Development (ELD) Class in which students made a deep dive into what gratitude is—how giving and receiving gratitude makes people feel and what are the most meaningful ways to express gratitude. Students first experienced gratitude by getting a surprise pizza party where they were given letters of gratitude teachers wrote for them and then reflected on how being acknowledged and appreciated felt. Students visited teachers who shared tokens of appreciation they had been given by their students over the years and observed high school classes to collect data on how often gratitude was expressed. Students then used their learning and experiences to come up with ways to show appreciation to teachers during *Teacher Appreciation Week*.

Projects included making a poster for each teacher, collecting letters from students in the school for each teacher, delivering food and coffee to each teacher, putting together bouquets for each teacher and making little gifts for each teacher. Students worked in groups to plan and prepare—figuring out what materials they needed, getting information from teachers about their likes and interests and planning logistics and timing. The week was an incredible success—students were excited by their projects and truly enjoyed the process of giving! As part of a final project reflection, students assembled gratitude journals—taking quotes and anecdotes from reflections and writing activities they engaged in, compiling work samples, photos, artifacts and quotes they collected from teachers. The impacts of the project were numerous for students and teachers as well as the entire school community and included students' acquisition of new planning, teamwork, mindfulness, writing and art skills, strengthening relationships between students and teachers and increased student leadership in class through building their awareness of empathy and ability to recognize and express appreciation and gratitude.

**AVES Integrated Arts Across The Curriculum Projects** which build on a long partnership between AVES and artist/arts educator Cathleen Micheaels and this year included four in-depth, hands-on integrated arts projects which enriched and extended learning in language arts and science and history through literary (story or poetry writing) and visual arts (printing, line drawing, watercolor illustration and bookmaking) while also supporting the development of research, critical thinking and creative problem solving skills:

**Anderson Creek Independent Study Program (ACISP) K-6th Grade A Year In Anderson Valley Calendar**—A birthday calendar with haiku-inspired poems and watercolor illustrations about the seasons/natural environment in Anderson Valley for each of the twelve months and including student and teacher birthdays as well as birthdays of notable writers and artists. The older students served as Art Buddy mentors for the younger students helping them write poems and create illustrations.

**2nd Grade Ladybug Storybooks**—Practice and final published storybooks all about ladybugs with simple line drawing and finger/thumb print illustrations. The 2nd graders worked on their own on practice storybooks and as partners on final published storybooks.

**3rd Grade Birds of Anderson Valley Class Book**—Bird tribute poems with watercolor illustrations about nine birds seen in and around Anderson Valley in the skies and treetops, perched on fences or scurrying along the roadways, in the fields, flowers and trees and along the rivers and creeks. The 3rd graders worked in pairs to learn about/research then brainstorm and write poems about one bird together, with each of the students then creating their own watercolor illustrations.





5th Grade The 50 States Poems Class Books—State poems and watercolor illustrations focused on the state trees, birds, flowers and animals. The 5th graders used both class state resource books and online state facts and symbols sites to research and learn about their state symbols.

Projects started with the introduction and practice of arts skills then moved forward with the application of skills and included 15 sessions which varied in length from an hour to an hour and a half depending on the grade level and resulted in completed works of art by the end of the school year in May when all projects concluded with in-class sharings and showcases at the school-wide May 4th Open House. The in-depth projects have powerful impacts for the students and instill in students an excitement for learning and a significant pride in the outcomes as evidenced in the final project reflections including one 5th grade student's summation—"I Expressed my full art potential!"



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

AVArts awarded Arts Scholarships for Graduating Seniors to four AVJ&SHS seniors in honor of longtime AVArts member Glynnis Jones who provided invaluable behind the scenes support to AVArts and was an ardent advocate for the arts in the schools and community—a \$3,500 scholarship to **Claire Livingston** to support her attendance at the University of California, Los Angeles to study astrophysics and arts; a \$3,500 scholarship to **Trent Lopez** to support his attendance at Mendocino College and then transfer to a university to study architecture, photography and video; a \$1,500 scholarship to **Cristofer Oseguera** to attend Cal Poly San Luis Obispo to study business administration, photography and video; and a \$1,500 scholarship to **Jasmine Theiss** to support her attendance at Santa Rosa Junior College to study for her Associate in Arts Degree with a focus on taking courses in the arts.



### News From Recent Arts Scholarships for Graduating Seniors Recipients

From **Julia Brock** (2017) – "It is my 5th year in Los Angeles and I am so happy to have my hands full with work in my dream industry! I am still freelance video-editing with the ability to take my work anywhere in the world with me and build my own schedule to allow me time to visit home often. Currently, I have secured my biggest contract ever as lead editor for a video series that the University of Southern California is creating. I am also doing video work for other schools such as Stevens Institute, Butler University, and brands such as LinkedIn and AT&T. Everything is going great thanks to my supportive family, friends and community. I can't thank AVArts enough for giving me a jump start in college and my career!"



From **Cozette Ellis** (2018) – "I recently graduated from UC Davis with a BFA in design and am currently completing a residency in Washington on San Juan Island at 501c3 nonprofit Alchemy Art Center. I have primarily been focusing on printmaking (screen printing and relief printing), but have also learned wheel throwing and been doing a lot of sgraffito. My work for the art center includes organizational management, fundraising, teaching, graphic design, and community outreach."



From **Hannah Woolfenden** (2019) – "I am now in my senior year in the Alonzo King Lines Ballet BFA degree program at Dominican University of CA, thanks to help from an AVArts scholarship. I have become immersed in the forever resilient and passionate arts community in the SF Bay Area through my dance classes at school, my newfound love for musical theater (I recently appeared in Mountain Play's *Hello Dolly!* and will be a swing for SF Playhouse's *As You Like It* this winter), and through visual art/dance collaborations (including a thermal photography project). In March, I had the opportunity to perform in *Counterpointe9* hosted by norte maar in New York. I am forever grateful that I have received so much support to pursue my deep love for art."



From **Gabriella Kephart** (2021) – "Throughout my academic journey studying biology at the University of California, Santa Cruz, I've spent a lot of time working with the arts as well. I took an environmental art course last spring. I'm currently taking an introduction to theater course this fall, and my final project for my virology course is an EP with 4 songs and a music video. Additionally, my lead role in my current job is running the digital newsletter. Art has always been my outlet no matter the medium and will continue to be, even outside of academics."

From **Trent Lopez** (2022) – "I've been having an incredible college experience so far, and I look forward to finishing my credits here at Mendocino College and perhaps transferring to UC Santa Cruz or UC Berkeley. I've been doing very well so far in my classes and have found plenty of time outside of college and work to complete my assignments. Introduction to Film, the art class that I'm taking this semester, is a course that explains different aspects and techniques of filmmaking used throughout films in the present and past. We watch various films and film clips and analyze everything about them. Last week's main topic was cinematography. We learned all about how cinematographers pay attention to lighting, camera movement, composition, and exposure when creating films. Every course has been an absolute blast so far and I cannot wait for next semester!"



### An Invitation to Support AVArts

We're reaching out to invite you, our core community arts supporters, to help support us through making a tax deductible donation to AVArts and hope the exceptional arts programs and remarkable graduates 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 (Karen Altaras, Peggy Dart, Paula Gray, Dennis Hudson, Cathleen Micheaels & Jody Williams)

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