

December 2023

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 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 continued to support arts projects carried out in the Anderson Valley Unified School District (AVUSD) schools and award scholarships for Anderson Valley Junior & Senior High School (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 was exceptionally pleased to fund an *Arts in the Schools Program* project during the 2022-2023 school year with former AVJ&SHS graduate and AVArts *Arts Scholarship for Graduating Seniors* recipient Cozette Ellis! The **AVJ&SHS After School Screen Printing Project** brought Cozette back to AVJ&SHS to carry out screen printing sessions with both the After School Program (ASP) and the Service Learning Team (SLT).

Students in the ASP met after school on Tuesdays and Thursdays from November 2022 through February 2023. Over the course of the thirteen sessions students learned the entire screen printing process—how to coat the screens with emulsion, dry them in a dark place, create their designs and transfer them to duralar, burn the screens, print their designs and then wash and reclaim the screens.



Students in the SLT met weekly on Fridays and through the sessions also learned the entire screen printing process (as described above) as well as production screen printing through printing multiple boxes of T-shirts that the AVJ&SHS SLT sold to raise funds for their skatepark project. The SLT students also worked on designing and printing posters, donor shirts and other promotional materials for the skatepark project.



As Cozette reflected on the project, the sessions were tremendously engaging and impactful for the students in both the ASP and SLT:

"I think accessing this new medium opened up the creative worlds of the students I worked with—every time we printed one of their new designs they exclaimed with joy and excitement. Students made patches and printed on skirts and T-shirts as well as on paper to give to friends. I found that walking students through the design process from start to finish—starting with thumbnailing and ideation and finishing with a burned screen—allowed students to develop a more professional creative skillset. It was immensely gratifying to watch students take to a creative practice that is so important to me. I am incredibly grateful to have done this work at AVJ&SHS—teaching screen printing in a room where I once was a student was so impactful for me. Many, many thanks to AVArts for the continued generosity and care through supporting the arts in our community!"



Arts Scholarships for Graduating Seniors Awards

AVArts awarded *Arts Scholarships for Graduating Seniors* to two very deserving graduates at the AVJ&SHS June 5th, 2023 *Senior Awards Night*:

- an award of **\$500 to Rocio Alvarez-Villegas** to support her attendance at Santa Rosa Junior College to study music; and
- an award of **\$5,000 to Madalayne Zacapa-Lagunas** to support her attendance at the University of California, Berkeley to study art.

AVArts was impressed with Madalayne's and Rocio's dedication to making the arts part of their futures and wishes them both a year ahead full of discovery, creativity and inspiration!



News From Arts Scholarships for Graduating Seniors Recipients

From **Julia Brock** (2017, right in photo taken at AIDS/LifeCycle) – "This year was a special one for my career as I had my work aired on television for the first time ever! I had the great honor of editing interviews with Los Angeles Marathon runners for KTLA 5's live broadcast of the event and was able to visit the studio in Hollywood for a look behind the scenes as they prepped for the big day. I was also part of the media team for the AIDS/LifeCycle event in which cyclists bike from San Francisco to Los Angeles in order to raise money to end AIDS. Our team followed cyclists in an RV, creating videos to show at the end of each ride day on the same day that they were filmed—it was incredibly fast-paced but the event raised over \$11 million dollars and hopefully our fun videos will help raise even more money in years to come. All this wouldn't have been possible without all the support I've gotten from the AV community and from AVArts especially!"



From **Cozette Ellis** (2018, photo taken at Alchemy Art Center face painting event) – “After finishing up teaching screen printing in Anderson Valley this year, I moved back to Washington state where I’m continuing to work at Alchemy Art Center, a small non-profit on San Juan Island. My role for the organization is outreach coordinator which involves running our community-facing and youth-oriented summer arts programming. This has been a wonderful way to interface with the community and share creative skills/mediums with local kids that would otherwise be very difficult to access. I’ll be living, working and making my art here on San Juan Island for the foreseeable future.”



From **Hannah Woolfenden** (2019, photo taken at Dominican senior solo concert) – “Hello lovely humans! With generous support both fiscally and emotionally from the wonderful people behind AVArts, I have recently graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Dance and a minor in Mathematics through the Alonzo King Lines Ballet degree program at Dominican University of CA. Outside of school, I had the opportunity to be part of two San Francisco Playhouse productions (*As You Like It* and *A Chorus Line*) and perform new works by local contemporary choreographers. Post-graduation, I am currently working with two San Francisco-based performing arts projects—Mariana Sobral’s eMotion Arts and Dr. Schaffer’s MoveSpeakSpin. I am forever grateful I have received so much love and support in pursuing my passion for art.”



From **Shekina McEwen** (2021, standing center and second from the right in photo taken at USC School of Music) – “This is my junior year at USC’s Thornton School of Music! I’m taking Music Publishing, Marketing, Branding and Strategic Alliances in The Music Industry and Desktop Music Production alongside Business in East Asia and Intro to Islam—both of which have expanded and diversified my knowledge about the world, commerce and religion. I think it is safe to say I love the Music Industry (Business) degree at USC and my professors. What I admire most about my professors is that they are professionals (executives, VPs and lawyers) in the music industry themselves and at notable businesses and corporations such as Sony Music Group, Universal Music Group, Capitol Music Group, Pulse Music Group, Agency for the Performing Arts, American Society of Composers, Authors and Publishers and more. They have firsthand knowledge of working in the music industry and the connections—whether they be copyright attorneys, music accountants, people who work in AR or other departments at YouTube, Apple Music and Spotify. Hearing their wisdom and advice is such a privilege. Alongside this, I also had a chance to perform live at a USC concert not too long ago and performed some originals which was a fun experience even though performing live isn’t necessarily something I want to pursue.”



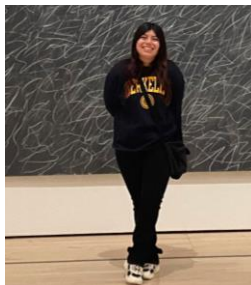
From **Claire Livingston** (2022, photo taken with one of her oil paintings) – “After a challenging freshman year at the University of California, Los Angeles, I’m taking some time off from my required studies to explore my interests and develop a stronger sense of self. Originally, I intended to major in astrophysics with a minor in art (film, television and digital media) but after my first year at college I’ve come to realize that there are many more fields I am interested in/many other paths I may want to take. I’ve really enjoyed the humanities classes I’ve taken so far and, while the studio art classes offered at UCLA are limited, I’ve relied on the art I make in my free time to help me process my new environment and experiences.”



From **Trent Lopez** (2022, photos taken at Pennyroyal Farm) – “The last few months have been busy for me with school and work. Nonetheless, I have been exploring the new medium of culinary arts which has now become one of my passions. I’ve been working closely with the head chef at Pennyroyal Farm here in Boonville where I started working after graduating high school. Working there has been lovely because I have been taught different techniques and styles of cooking. Lately, my new obsession has been with plating and garnishing. The entire experience so far has been wonderful and has taught me some important life lessons like how to work under pressure and be patient. I plan on working in a kitchen all the way up until the time I transfer from Mendocino College where I’m currently in school and still aiming for graduation in the spring of 2024 when I will be applying to UC Berkeley, Stanford, Princeton and Cornell as a political science major. Wherever I end up, I would still like to practice culinary arts in some way. Mendocino College has been great so far and I look forward to finishing up my transfer credits here. Grade-wise, I currently have a 4.0 GPA and I am taking 13 units. I very much look forward to what the future has in store for me and everything ahead which wouldn’t be possible without everyone’s support!”



From **Madalayne Zacapa-Lagunas** (2023, photo taken at SF Museum of Modern Art) – “I am currently enrolled for my second semester here at the University of California, Berkeley and one step closer to officially declaring my Art Practice major. My time as a Golden Bear has been such an amazing learning experience and I’ve been able to grow in more ways than one thanks to the endless opportunities here at Cal including joining student-led groups such as Reflejos de Sol which provides folklórico dance lessons and allows me to reconnect with my heritage. The community in the Bay is beyond welcoming as the diverse array of cultures creates an inclusive space for artists to thrive and I’ve had opportunities to meet various upcoming artists who differ in backgrounds and experiences. I’ve also had the chance to meet with UC Berkeley alumni who have provided me with various resources to further develop my artistic career. Overall, being in Berkeley has been an amazing experience which has been possible with all the support I received including from AVArts! Although I will always be a Panther, Go Bears!”



An Invitation to Support AVArts

We’re reaching out to invite you, our core community arts supporters, to help support us by 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, Cathleen Micheals & Jody Williams*)

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