



December 2024

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 the 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 making the arts part of their continued 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 during the 2023-2024 school year—an **Anderson Valley Elementary School (AVES) Bird Masks Project** in the two 3rd grade classes with guest artist Martha Crawford and an **Anderson Valley Junior & Senior High School (AVJ&SHS) Ceramic Arts In Medieval World History Project** with Jess Thompson of *Cider Creek Collective* in the two 7th grade World History classes:

- The **AVES Bird Masks Project** focused on creating paper mâché, paper assemblage and painted masks of local birds which students were learning about as part of an ongoing 3rd grade focus on birds. The 3rd graders designed and created their bird masks over 11 project sessions which started in late January and wrapped up in the end of May. The completed masks were featured in in-class presentations and as part of the end of the school year display for the May 21st Open House for families.

- The **AVJ&SHS Ceramic Arts In Medieval World History Project** included four project sessions with the 7th grade *World History* classes focused on the history and style of Japanese tea cups and Chinese blue and white porcelain and design. The 7th graders also created pinch pot style cups inspired by the white and red styles of Mesoamerica with their teacher Ms. Honegger. Students participated in cultural food experiences where they used their completed cups to drink traditional beverages from different regions of the world (hot chocolate, matcha, loose leaf black teas, decaffeinated Arabic coffee and kola nut soda). At the end of the school year all the cups were displayed at the May 21st *Schoolwide Exhibition of Student Work* for families and community members.

AVArts was pleased to support both projects which enriched class and subject learning though the arts by providing students opportunities to develop specific arts skills and self-expression through making art and instilled in students a lasting sense of accomplishment and pride.

Arts Scholarships for Graduating Seniors Awards

AVArts presented a record number of *Arts Scholarships for Graduating Seniors* awards to six very deserving graduates at the AVJ&SHS April 22nd, 2024 *Senior Awards Dinner* to support them in continuing their studies including taking classes in the arts:

- four \$500 awards to **Dominic Sanchez, James (Link) McDonald, Luis Mendoza** and **Randal Ferreyra** to support their attendance at Mendocino College or Santa Rosa Junior College (with the opportunity to renew the scholarships for a second year);

- a \$3,000 award to **Mariana Flores Almanza** to support her attendance at Santa Rosa Junior College to pursue studies in the culinary arts; and

- a \$4,000 award to **Mariana Zavala-Camacho** to support her attendance at Santa Rosa Junior College then transferring to a four-year college to pursue studies in the arts.

AVArts was impressed with the six scholarship recipients and their dedication to making the arts part of their futures and wishes them all a year ahead full of discovery, creativity and inspiration!

News From Arts Scholarships for Graduating Seniors Recipients

From **Nate Schenck** (2012, Nate on left with their band Charmed Form—photo by Jack McKeivitt) – “Thanks in no small part to support from AVArts I attended Columbia College Chicago and graduated with a BA in Audio Arts and Acoustics in 2016. In the years since I’ve had the opportunity to work with Grammy Award nominated and winning recording engineers in several different professional recording studios in the Chicago area and I’ve also become entrenched in the Chicago and greater Midwest area DIY music scene, playing in bands in Chicago for the last 12 years and touring across the U.S. and Canada. A recent highlight was performing at the New Friends Fest music festival in Toronto in the summer of 2023. In addition to playing regularly in bands I do freelance audio engineering, primarily for my own musical projects and other DIY artists in Chicago.”



From **Julia Brock** (2017, photo taken at video editing project in Detroit, MI) – "I'm happy to share that 2024 was another exciting year for my career, starting off with editing TV interviews for the Los Angeles Marathon for the second year in a row (with our previous 2023 broadcast nominated for an Emmy for Best Live Sports Coverage!). I had a great time covering the AidsLifeCycle bike ride again as well and had my first out-of-state video editing gig in Detroit, MI then spent time this summer focusing on travel and visiting the people who mean the most to me in Oregon and New Zealand. This fall, I'm tackling my biggest project to date—a feature film documentary! I look forward to continuing to share all my projects with you all and can't express my gratitude enough to AVArts and the whole community for allowing me to live the life of my dreams with all their support and love."



From **Raul Malfavon** (2017, photo taken at the Noyo Theater in Willits) – "Hello! The past few years have been incredibly busy—after graduating from Chico State in 2021 with a degree in animation I started my professional career as an animator at a small but passionate game company based in San Diego where I had the exciting opportunity to create and animate characters for a mobile game which was a great introduction to the industry. More recently, I had the incredible opportunity to work as an Animator/VFX Artist on *The Marvels* Disney-Marvel film as well as several other TV projects. Working on such high-profile productions has been both challenging and rewarding, pushing me to grow and refine my skills in ways I never imagined. I've learned so much about the inner workings of the film industry, the collaborative nature of the creative process and what it truly takes to succeed as an artist in such a fast-paced environment. Once the project wrapped, I decided to take a much-needed break to recharge and focus on some personal animation and art projects that had been on the back burner for a while. It was refreshing to step back and experiment with different styles/techniques and now that I've had time to reflect and reset, I'm excited to return to work in the film industry and continue building on everything I've learned. The journey as an animator is far from over and I can't wait to see where it takes me next!"



From **Cozette Ellis** (2018, photo taken at Alchemy Art Center event in WA and two of Cozette's orange bowls) – "Over the past year I have continued to work for the small non-profit Alchemy Art Center off the coast of San Juan Island in Washington. I had a busy summer planning and directing our outreach program which brings visiting artists to the community to teach free youth-centered classes—this year we were able to serve 4,500 islanders and visitors! I also have been churning out ceramics which I sell at the island's farmer's market and bigger art festivals off island and I'm now also selling work in stores and a gallery in Washington."



From **Hannah Woolfenden** (2019, photo of Hannah as Dream Laurey in *Oklahoma!* at Cinnabar Theater in September) – "Hello all! After graduating with a BFA in Dance and a minor in Math through the Alonzo King Lines Ballet program at Dominican University of CA in 2023, I've had the joyful privilege of being a freelance dancer in the Bay Area. This artistic journey has led me to perform in various musical theater productions at Cinnabar Theater, San Francisco Playhouse, PLAY Theater Company and more. Additionally, teenage Hannah would be thrilled that I have been working on two separate contemporary dance projects that bring together science and the arts. Most recently I performed at the opening of the new Stanford Robotics Lab and I'm regularly working with a math-inspired dance company called MoveSpeakSpin. I am constantly inspired by the rich creativity in the art world and am forever grateful to AVArts for supporting my dreams."



From **Trent Lopez** (2022, bottom right in photo collage from Berkeley) – "In early July, I was fortunate to receive acceptance letters from UC Berkeley, UCLA, Saint Mary's of CA and UC Santa Cruz. After weighing my options and some extra thought, I committed to UC Berkeley and just this October finished my very first midterm season here where I'm working toward applying for a major in Political Economy and minor in Public Policy, with hopes of becoming a policy analyst or policymaker! This semester I enrolled in History of American Capitalism, Survey of Global History and Introduction to Public Policy Analysis courses which have all been extremely insightful and inspirational from a critical thinking standpoint. As for my art exploration, I have devoted much time to taking photographs of local architecture and the interestingly large fox squirrel population here. In addition, I joined the Cal Democrats *Smart Ass* magazine where I will practice my writing/editorial skills and the Campus Safety Team where I will have the opportunity to make the university and community safer. So far, this has been an incredible experience that I feel physically and mentally changed by—it's an absolute honor to be able to study in such a wonderful university thanks to the help of AVArts!"



From **Madalayne Mackenzie Zacapa-Lagunas** (2023, Madalayne in her studio in Berkeley) – "I have officially declared Art Practice as my major at the University of California, Berkeley and I'm currently pursuing the comic and painting pathway for my degree! I'm continuing to immerse myself in the endless mixed-media possibilities as I continue to pursue my passion of becoming a manga artist and have challenged myself with new opportunities including conducting undergraduate research through the Luchita-Vaterlaus Scholars Program. My research, which was focused on the Feminist Standpoint Theory in Shonen Manga, will be published and presented later this year through UC Berkeley's Student Learning Center. Through this experience, I have developed an intellectual curiosity for delving deeper into the field of Shonen Manga. Overall, my time in UC Berkeley has opened new doors into the scholarly world which I am excited to pursue. All this wouldn't have been possible without the support of AVArts and the AV community!"



An Invitation to Support AVArts

We're reaching out to invite you, our core community of 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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