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PRESS RELEASE

LAKE COUNTY ARTS COUNCIL ANNOUNCES FIVE (5) UPSTATE CALIFORNIA CREATIVE CORPS GRANTEES IN LAKE COUNTY

Lake County, CA, July 15th, 2023 – Lake County Arts Council celebrates five (5) grantees, who will be working under the Upstate California Creative Corps program.

Middletown Art Center (aka EcoArts of Lake County), Museums of Lake County, Corine Pearce, Ross Travis, and Danial LoPilato are among 27 partner agencies, 54 lead creative partners, and a total of 1,010 artists and culture bearers supporting initiatives serving California's least represented peoples, and most vulnerable communities and environments. Lake County Arts Council, and peer agencies across California's Upstate Region, led by Nevada County Arts Council, announce \$3.38 million in grant awards across Northern California.

Announcing Upstate California Creative Corps grantees follows over seven months of outreach, listening and support before and during the program's application window. Says Barbara Clark, Executive Director at Lake County Arts Council: "This has been an empowering process. Beginning in November of 2022, we had open discussion with the public, artists, and cultural bearers within Lake County to identify, as a community, our specific needs and wants. Every decision, including panel selection, brainstorming with artists, grant deliberations, and grant allocation used our previous conversations as a guide. We hope to see this model repeated in the future as it truly allowed Lake County to find our own creative solutions to critical issues."

Examples of Lake County projects include Middletown Art Centers project "Reciprocity" which features permanent art installments at the Eco Arts walk and will feature multiple artists. This community engaged project will help displaced and endangered species and fire mitigation. The Museums of Lake County will be constructing a life-size Bronze Lake Pomo Family, which has been discussed and approved by the Tribal Advisory Committee to the Museums of Lake County, comprised of representatives from all seven local tribes. Smaller single artist grants include: Where Do We Go From Here; a traveling multi-disciplinary performance piece addressing climate change, Revitalizing Traditional Pomo Basketry Arts, and a Naturalist's Guide to Lake Berryessa Snow Mountain National Monument.

Grantees are collectively part of a media, outreach, and engagement campaign designed to increase awareness for issues such as public health, water and energy conservation, climate mitigation, and emergency preparedness, relief and recovery. California Arts Council views the California Creative Corps program as a job creation and human infrastructure development opportunity. Region by

region, the program is increasing the ways in which artists are engaged in public work, so that they can continue build upon intersectional public interest goals beyond its pilot funding timeline. A complete list of grantees can be found at <https://www.upstatecreativecorps.org/grantees>.

Katrina Schneider, a core member of Upstate California Creative Corps’ team, says: “A unique factor in the way we designed our program has been about building capacity for our smallest agencies, who successfully applied alongside much larger more established entities, with or without the support of a grantwriter, as well as a slew of individual artists and culture bearers, working solo and in tandem as serious changemakers without previous access to funds and resources.”

Funded projects serve Upstate’s most vulnerable communities, those identified via the California Healthy Places Index and other valuable local data sources. From place-based urban initiatives to multi-county regional projects that follow watersheds, tribal lands, forests, and some of California’s most remote mountain wilderness areas, projects engage diverse communities around solutions for some of society’s most fundamental challenges – through social practice and an array of artforms.

Within the Upstate Region, Lake County Arts Council is one of a network of agencies who serve as State-Local Partners with California Arts Council. While each serves distinct communities, State-Local Partner agencies are connected through a coalition who benchmark, consult, and gain from peer learning and support, with equity at their core. Upstate agency partners are Nevada County Arts Council, as administering organization for the California Creative Corps, Arts Council of Mendocino County, Arts Council of Placer County, Colusa County Arts Council, Del Norte Association for Cultural Awareness, Friends of the Arts in Butte, Humboldt Arts Council (and Ink People, working in partnership with Humboldt Arts Council), Lake County Arts Council, Lassen County Arts Council, Modoc County Arts Council, Nevada County Arts Council, Plumas County Arts Council, Shasta County Arts Council, Sierra County Arts Council, Siskiyou County Arts Council, Tehama County Arts Council, Trinity County Arts Council, and Yuba Sutter Arts & Culture.

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