



FUNDING REQUEST: Arts and Culture El Dorado respectfully requests funding support from the General Fund for fiscal year 2023-2024, in the amount of \$95,600. To support this request, following is a summary of our cultural activities for the current fiscal year, and a look ahead to the proposed activities for the next fiscal year.

Please note that our public programs are always free and open to all. An asterisk* denotes programs that are ongoing from FY 2023 to FY 2024.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES FY 2023, COMPLETED AND PENDING:

***Arts Incubator:** We provide fiduciary oversight, financial management, and other administrative services to help build the capacity of cultural projects and emerging arts groups which are not 501(c)(3) organizations. Donations made to the project through the Incubator are considered charitable in nature and may be tax-deductible. Arts and Culture El Dorado accepts Incubator projects which have an arts and culture focus and serve the public good. We currently host six projects in the Incubator: The Green Room Artists Fund, the Legion of Live Artists, One Thread, Placerville Friends of Tibet, See the Elephant, and Studio 81, representing performing, visual, and literary arts, and cultural heritage.

***Poetry Out Loud:** Poetry Out Loud is a national poetry recitation competition for high school students. In El Dorado County, the competition is administered by Arts and Culture El Dorado in partnership with the California Arts Council. A vehicle for inspiration and instruction, Poetry Out Loud provides students with a variety of resources to help them memorize, interpret, and recite poetry, instilling in students not just an appreciation of poetry, but also a sense of accomplishment and confidence in their public speaking abilities. In March 2023, our winning students hailed from Oak Ridge High School, Charter University Prep, and Union Mine High School.

***Young Artist Awards:** Arts and Culture El Dorado's Young Artist Awards honor the memory of four bright lights in our community who were great supporters of the arts, and whose lives represent the talent, thoughtfulness, generosity, and commitment to our community that make El Dorado County such a special place to live. These awards are presented to outstanding high school juniors and seniors in each of four categories: music, visual art, theater, and nature-inspired art of any discipline. The awards are:

- Richard H. Bush Award for Music
- Joey Cattone Award for Visual Art
- Lanny Langston Award for Theater
- Jane Van Camp Award for Nature-Inspired Art

Students will be nominated by El Dorado County high school teachers. The four families will participate in the selection process, and an honorarium of \$500 will be presented to each awardee. An awards ceremony, which will be free and open to the public, will take place at the Switchboard Gallery, 525 Main Street, Placerville, on Thursday, April 27, 2023.

The students who receive these awards will exemplify the talent and immense potential of our El Dorado County high school students. As an annual program, the Young Artist Awards will continue to celebrate the great promise of younger generations and honor the lives and legacies of the “bright lights” who came before them.

***Veterans’ Voices Writing Workshop:** Veterans' Voices is a free and ongoing writing workshop that is open to all veterans, from any branch of service. It offers a supportive environment and the tools needed for the writing of fiction and nonfiction stories, service related or not, as well as memoir, poetry and drama. Newcomers are always welcome. For fiscal year 2023 we will complete 32 workshops and have published our latest anthology of work from the program, this year entitled *Close to Home*, containing 22 stories by 11 of our veteran writers.

Arts HQ: Mobilizing Veterans in the Arts: On May 20, 2023, we will present this event for veterans, their families and the general public that will promote public awareness of veterans' mental health and the supportive role that the creative process may play. Presented in collaboration with VETART and MHSOAC (Mental Health Services Oversight and Accountability Commission), Arts HQ will be a free, interactive, hands-on day of arts activities and resources for veterans. The event, which will prominently feature local veteran artists, is part of a series of similar events in counties across California. Our local vet participants will be compensated through outside funding received for this project. We are partnering with the County offices of Behavioral Health and Veterans Services on outreach to our local veteran population.

Creative Forces: Creative Forces/NEA Military Healing Arts Network is an initiative of the National Endowment for the Arts in partnership with the U.S. Departments of Defense and Veterans Affairs that seeks to improve the health, well-being, and quality of life for military and veteran populations exposed to trauma, as well as their families and caregivers. The Creative Forces Community Engagement program increases access to arts activities in our community and serves a broad population, including active-duty service members, guardsmen, reservists, veterans, military and veteran families, as well as caregivers and healthcare workers providing care for military service members and veterans. Our Program Coordinator and Veterans’ Voices Writing Workshop facilitator are members of this cohort.

***Gallery Exhibitions:** All Gallery Exhibitions are accompanied by a full-color professional exhibition catalogue, free to gallery visitors; free public programs are also developed for each exhibition, such as an artist talk, film screening, workshop, or other public event.

Dark Mountain Deep Valley. Painter Loren Christofferson was the subject of this exhibition presented by at the Confidence Firehouse Gallery, and was a series of monochromatic paintings and works on paper that dive into the artist's deep connection to Yosemite's remarkable landscape. An artist talk was featured during this exhibition. June and July 2022.

Please note that due to circumstances beyond our control, Confidence Firehouse Gallery was closed to the public in August 2022. We moved offices and gallery and in May 2023 will open the Switchboard Gallery, so named as it is housed in the former Pacific Bell Telephone Company building on Main Street in Placerville.

Those Unseen: A Group Exhibition. This exhibition will feature the original prints of Sigrid Benson, and sculptural works of Marisa Sayago and Cristina Arizmendi. This show examines the complexity of

human relationships, kinship, and the invisible presence of those who have come before us. Will include at least one artist talk. 5/5/23 – 6/4/23

FIRE/LAND: Knowing the Territory. A multimedia exhibition produced in partnership with American River Conservancy, Myrtle Tree Arts and lead artist Ameera Godwin. In conjunction with a live performance at Wakamatsu Farm, this exhibition is a creative exploration of wildfire, ecological change, and resilience in El Dorado County. Will include several public events and performances. 6/8/23 – 7/27/23

***Promotion of Cultural Activities:** To date, 122 eblasts and social media posts have promoted the music and poetry events, art openings, tours, classes, arts opportunities, and many other cultural activities available throughout El Dorado County. In partnership with the South Lake Tahoe Arts, Culture and Tourism Commission and the Tahoe Art League, a special “sampler” eblast is sent on a regular basis highlighting special things to do and see in the South Lake Tahoe region. The summer issue of *ARTS 99*, our quarterly publication, included stories from the four compass points of the County, focusing on stories from Georgetown, South Lake Tahoe, Somerset, and Cameron Park. The fall issue focused on a new retail business on Main Street in Placerville, the groundbreaking work of See the Elephant theater and dance company, the compassionate program One Thread, working with cancer patients, and a new theatrical production produced locally and headed for the big stage. Our *Creative Currents* columns in the Mountain Democrat celebrated local treasure Peter Wolfe, co-founder of Imagination Theater, and Table Nectar, a farm-to-table catering and event company with a passion for preparing food that is good for the guests and good for the earth. Future columns will feature Heather Freer, beloved drama teacher in the El Dorado Union High School District, and James Marquez, director of Center Street Gallery and the Foothills Indian Education Alliance.

Placerville Public Art Plan: Arts and Culture El Dorado has been awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to work with the City of Placerville in the creation of a public art plan. This plan, which is included in the City of Placerville Strategic Plan for 2023-24, will convene focus groups for community discussions about our civic identity; key elements from the discussions will be incorporated into the plan and guidelines so that all voices will contribute to Placerville’s public art in years to come.

Camino Roundabout: Arts and Culture El Dorado will assist with planning, development, and fundraising for a sculptural element to grace the new Caltrans roundabout in Camino.

***Poet Laureate/Laureate Trail:** On Saturday, April 29, we will hold a special free public event at the Placerville Public Library to celebrate our student Poetry Out Loud winners, present their awards and honoraria, and honor our outgoing Poet Laureate, Lara Gulate. The day will consist of presentations, poetry readings, music, and refreshments, and we will also announce our new Poet Laureate for 2023-25. This is the last stop on the Laureate Trail, with previous events at the libraries in Georgetown (7/27/22), Pollock Pines (9/21/22), Cameron Park (11/30/22) and El Dorado Hills (2/1/23). Please note, the South Lake Tahoe event was on 6/22/22, in the previous fiscal year.

***Colors From the Farm:** In early May 2023, we will once again partner with Ag in the Classroom and participate in Farm Day, the hands-on field trip for third-graders to learn about the role of agriculture in our everyday lives. Our project is called “Colors From the Farm” and invites the kids to learn about dyes made from fruits and vegetables and then create a hand-dyed fabric all their own. Proposed for September 2023 is to present “Colors From the Farm” at the South Lake Tahoe Farm Day.

***Kilt & Cork Partnership:** Arts and Culture El Dorado promoted and participated in the Saureel Summer Nights Concert Series, which featured local and regional musicians onstage and the work of local artisans at Saureel Vineyards in Gold Hill.

California Creative Corps: In partnership with the Sacramento Office of Arts and Culture, we are serving as the communications hub for this statewide program to create job opportunities for local artists and arts organizations. A total of \$4.5 million is available to fund projects in our Capital Region (Solano, Yolo, Sacramento, El Dorado, and Alpine counties) and we are holding information sessions and offering grant-writing assistance and grant sponsorship for this important opportunity.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES FY 2024, PROPOSED:

For programs marked with an asterisk* please refer to the sections above for further description.

***Arts Incubator:** Fiduciary oversight, financial management, and other administrative services to help build the capacity of cultural projects and emerging arts groups which are not 501(c)(3) organizations.

***Poetry Out Loud:** National poetry recitation competition for high school students

***Young Artist Awards:** Four high school students who demonstrate special promise in the arts will be honored with a Young Artist Award.

***Veterans' Voices Writing Workshop:** Free ongoing writing workshop that is open to all veterans, from any branch of service. It offers a supportive environment and the tools needed for the writing of fiction and nonfiction stories, service related or not, as well as memoir, poetry and drama. For FY 2024, we will publish our fifth anthology of writing from the program.

***Kilt & Cork Partnership:** Arts and Culture El will once again partner with Kilt & Cork on a country music festival, Latino music festival, Oktoberfest and other music and arts events.

The Big Read: *A Picture's Worth: Local Stories in Graphic Form.* Graphic translations of oral histories and personal narratives collected over six months at the El Dorado County Public Libraries -- an invitation to consider the graphic novel as an artform and storytelling medium, as well as giving voice to the broad experiences of older adults and family caregivers in El Dorado County.

***Gallery Exhibitions: All Gallery Exhibitions are accompanied by a full-color professional exhibition catalogue, free to gallery visitors; free public programs are also developed for each exhibition, such as an artist talk, film screening, workshop, or other public event.**

**FIRE/LAND: Knowing the Territory.* This multimedia exhibition described above will continue into July 2023.

Details and Materials: The Work of Claudine Granthem. This exhibition honors the work of long-time El Dorado County resident Claudine Granthem. With a strong oeuvre that consists of painting, wood and metal sculpture, and drawings, Claudine's work is at once architectural and deeply human. August – mid-October 2023

Sending It!: Climbing El Dorado. This major exhibition will be presented in conjunction with the family of Royal Robbins, one of the pioneers of American rock climbing, the new Lodge at Strawberry, and other principal funders, and will document the legendary early days of climbing in

this Sierra with archival photographs, maps, ephemera, and video presentations. Also proposed is a film series and book discussions. 10/19/23 – 12/29/23

Resin + Ash: Creating Anew. Creating pigment on site from the tree resin and ash left behind in the wake of Caldor Fire's destruction, Andie Thrums paints beautiful botanical imagery on a grand scale. Inspired by the Tibetan Buddhist practice of creating prayer flags, Thrums' *Forest Flags* investigate grief, beauty, and interconnection, while simultaneously bearing witness, inviting action, and evoking hope. Spring-Summer 2024

Switchboard Connections: El Dorado County Poet Laureate Emerita Lara Gularte will hold workshops in the Switchboard Gallery, during which the works on display will be considered as inspiration for poetry. Poems written during these workshops will be read at public poetry readings in the Gallery.

***Promotion of Cultural Activities:** Eblasts and social media posts to promote the music and poetry events, art openings, tours, classes, arts opportunities, and many other cultural activities available throughout El Dorado County. We will continue the South Lake Tahoe "sampler" of special events in that area. We will continue the monthly *Creative Currents* article in the Mt. Democrat and publish four issues of *ARTS 99*, our print publication featuring stories of culture and creativity from around the County,

Placerville Public Art Plan: Work on the Placerville Public Art Plan will be ongoing through December 2023.

Camino Roundabout: Work on the Camino Roundabout will be ongoing through June 2024.

***Poet Laureate/Laureate Trail:** Our new Poet Laureate for 2023-2025 will embark on the Laureate Trail, with stops at all six El Dorado County Public Libraries, as well as a special poetry project of his/her own design.

***Colors From the Farm:** In early May 2024 we will once again offer this special program for Ag in the Classroom's Farm Day.

Sierra Re-leaf: A Wildfire Preparedness + Recovery Event. A Public Fire Safety/Recovery Engagement Campaign, consisting of four targeted one-day events. Developed in partnership with Fire Safe Councils, artists, and community members, proposed locations include: The Divide, Grizzly Flat/Somerset, South Lake Tahoe, and Markleeville, and an exhibition in Placerville. The goal is to facilitate dialogue and process community grief/anxiety around the increasing threat of wildfire through arts programming, activities, installation, providing community members with actionable measures toward prevention and preparedness, as well as connecting folks to available assistance programs, such as the Chipper Program and Senior/Vet/Low-income defensible space Program. Artwork on exhibition will include Andie Thrums' *Forest Flags Project*, as well as the opportunity for the community to create their own collaborative artwork. Crafting pigment on-site from the tree resin and ash left behind in the wake of Caldor Fire's destruction, Andie Thrums paints dreamy botanical imagery on a grand scale. Inspired by the Tibetan Buddhist practice of creating prayer flags, Thrums' *Forest Flags* investigate grief, beauty, and interconnection while bearing witness and inviting action. Other programming will be developed in concert with artists and representatives from each target community. A project of the California Creative Corps program. Late spring-summer 2024.