

DNACA announces seven grants awarded

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Del Norte Association for Cultural Awareness celebrates seven grantees who developed projects serving Del Norte County, who will be working under the Upstate California Creative Corps program. DNACA, and peer agencies across California's Upstate Region, led by Nevada County Arts Council, announce \$3.38 million in grant awards across Northern California.

Del Norte residents Lauren Godla, Marcia Morgan, and Terri Glass, along with regional artists and organizations from the Upstate California area Rita Hosking, Water Climate Trust, Save California Salmon, and Jess Riegel are among 1,010 artists and culture bearers, 27 partner agencies, and 54 lead creative partners who are supporting initiatives serving California's least represented peoples, and most vulnerable communities and environments.

The announcement of Upstate California Creative Corps grantees comes after more than seven months of outreach and support before and during the program's application window. Says Stephanie La Torre, Executive Director at DNACA: "We first gathered our community together in November 2022 for a Listening Session, to share information and invite a conversation on how artists can help our local

community tackle our most critical issues. Since that time, we provided assistance to applicants, and then convened a Review Committee to review and rank the proposed projects that affect Del Norte County.”

Funded projects by Del Norte-based artists include video documentation of the undamming of the Klamath River, including conversations with Yurok members on the importance of this historic event, while another project provides information on how we can support pollinator species and the effect they have on our food supply. A third project will identify endangered species in Del Norte and how we can support efforts to safeguard their habitats and increase their numbers. The additional four funded projects will include Del Norte in regional projects by artists that are not residents of Del Norte.

La Torre says: “We are grateful to the applicants who worked so hard to submit proposals of substance and meaning for our community. The process was competitive, and funding was limited. This should send a clear message to the state that artists and culture bearers are ready to move the needle on important issues – many of which remain unsolved despite generations of investment.”

A complete list of grantees can be found at www.upstatecreativecorps.org/grantees.

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 they can continue to build upon public interest goals beyond its pilot funding timeline.

By resolution of Del Norte County Board of Supervisors, DNACA is a State-Local Partner with California Arts Council, and part of a coalition of County Arts Agencies serving diverse populations in every county across California. A 501(c)(3) not-for-profit organization, DNACA provides support and excitement for all the creative arts in our County, in order to inspire community vitality and harmony. Learn more at dnaca.net.