

Healdsburg Community Arts Grant

Indigenous Voices of Northern California

@THE222

THE 222

Healdsburg's premiere performing arts non-profit 501(c)(3) was formed in 2018, received its IRS certification in 2019 and opened with a protracted schedule of performances due to Covid restrictions in August 2021. It features a year-round public schedule of events in the areas of literary readings, community conversations, jazz music, classical music, choral music, film screenings, theater, and opera.

Our nine experienced programmers have brought and will bring well-known artists from the U.S. and abroad offering exceptional performances to Healdsburg and the greater Bay Area. A major factor in THE 222's success is the encouragement of artist and community interaction and the accent on intimate performances.

Another aspect of our program is an engagement with students from Healdsburg area schools, **offering students free tickets to all events**, encouraging participation in many of the programs (including our bi-annual literary open mic nights) of **THE 222**, as well as offering opportunities for students to explore interest in possible careers in the arts.

THE 222 is housed in the heart of Healdsburg within the Paul Mahder Gallery, a 10,500 square-foot space uniquely conducive to intimate, multi-disciplinary, and creative performance experiences hard to match anywhere else. The space is flexible enough to provide a concert venue suitable for audiences of 50 to 200 people.

Our Mission

To present an extensive calendar of outstanding events and experiences in the performing arts to members of the Healdsburg, Sonoma County, the wider Bay Area community and visitors from around the world. To recognize and encourage youth participation in the arts as an investment in our cultural future. To nurture a diverse community spirit through discussion, communal interaction and reflection, and collective interaction between local and international artists, and audiences representing all members of the community.

Presenting performance works of interest to, and accessible for, the diverse community of Healdsburg, as well as the entire Bay Area community, is our primary goal at **THE 222**. Our intention is to be a welcoming place where diverse populations and age groups find entertainment, encouragement, engagement, and most importantly... **a sense of community.**

Description of proposed project:

As part of the 2023/24 event schedule at **THE 222**, assisted by the first Healdsburg Public Arts Grant, we launched, as a part of our larger literary series, an on-going collection of events focused specifically on the culture and traditions of the Indigenous communities that are a part of our Northern California heritage.

During the present (23/24) season and the beginning of the 2024/25 season **THE 222** will be presenting five literary events specifically highlighting these traditions and opening up to additional engagement from the community in general and students in particular through our bi-annual community open mic nights.

The exact dates for specific events have yet to be determined but the general scheduling plan is as follows:

Sunday April 28, 2024 - Bi-annual Community Poetry Night and Workshop

As a launch to this collection of poetry events our Bi-annual open-mic night will invite people from throughout the Healdsburg community to participate in our on-going program of community poetry.

Poetry gets to the heart of human experience in a way that few other written forms do. During this “open-mic” poetry reading, we invite all present to share poems that speak both to and from the heart. Bring a poem you love, or an original work authored by yourself, and share in a brief exchange with the audience how the poem speaks to you. This event is free to the public, and all are welcome to attend.

An important feature of these open mic nights is the student participation from English classes at HHS, a significant part of our campaign to engage young people in a deeper exploration of the arts at THE 222.

This program also includes **free student admission to all shows at THE 222** throughout the year.

Poetry Workshop in Conjunction with Open Mic:

Indigenous Environmental Values and Creative Expression

Lenape-heritage author **Denise Low** will discuss Native perspectives regarding nature-human intersections and how these enrich writing. In a small workshop setting before the open mic presentation, she will guide student writers toward exploring their own ecological values and how to incorporate them into their writing.

OCTOBER

Learning about California Indigenous History—Deborah Miranda in Conversation with Denise Low

What should children—and adults—learn from California Indigenous peoples and how? This series presents Indigenous people who address ways teachers, parents, and others can present positive lessons from Indigenous experience about history, environment. **Deborah Miranda**, author of *Bad Indians: A Tribal Memoir* (PEN Oakland–Josephine Miles Literary Award; Independent Publisher Book Award, Gold Medal for Autobiography/Memoir; and shortlisted for the 2014 William Saroyan International Prize for Writing) She recounts her Ohlone and Latina upbringing, with attention to her encounter with the 4th grade state requirement for students to build a Spanish mission—where her enslaved forbears suffered immeasurably. Miranda published this groundbreaking book that led to the termination of this project 20 years ago. hat Miranda, in conversation with Denise Low (Lenape heritage), considers what everyone should know about California history. She suggest how teachers, parents, and concerned citizens teach this history.

NOVEMBER

Learning about Environment: Indigenous Stories and Knowledge

Kurt Schweigman is an enrolled Lakota poet living in Santa Rosa, whose new book features a distinctive outlook about the environment—its depredation since settler arrival and some hopeful responses in recent times. **Clint McKay**, Dry Creek Pomo, speaks to many groups about the importance of the Healdsburg environment to his people, the cultural and survival technologies, and the changes.

DECEMBER

Healing the Past with Kim Shuck and Denise Low

Kim Shuck, enrolled Cherokee and recent San Francisco Poet Laureate, has experienced historic trauma that can be traced back to the Trail of Tears. What does she achieve in her writings, prose and poetry, that can open dialogue for discussion and offer hope of reconciliation?

Denise Low, Lenape heritage, is publishing a documentary-poetic treatment of the 1782 Gnadenhutten massacre of converted Christian Delawares by renegade Calvinists who felt they were destroying people who opposed their god's will. How can this tragedy, outlined in *House of Grace, House of Blood* (University of Arizona Press, Suntracks Series), offer hope to all people today?

DATE TBA

Healing Stories for the Land and People of Sonoma County

Greg Sarris, Graton Rancheria chair and author, in conversation with **Jane Ciabattari**,
Lenape Heritage

In his most recent book, *Becoming Story: A Journey Among Seasons, Places, Trees, and Ancestors*, Graton Rancheria chair **Greg Sarris** writes about his people's population collapse and their land's environmental alterations. His writings describe a painful history and also stories of resilience. He and prominent literary critic and fiction writer **Jane Ciabattari** discuss ways Indigenous peoples, through literary arts and action, approach the future.

Biographies

Jane Ciabattari, a Sonoma County resident, is an award-winning short story writer and author of the acclaimed story collection *Stealing the Fire*. A Lit Hub columnist and regular contributor to BBC Culture, she is vice president/events (and former president) of the National Book Critics Circle, on the advisory board of The Story Prize, Lit Camp and the Bay Area Book Festival, and a Pushcart Prize contributing editor. Her reviews, interviews and cultural criticism have appeared in NPR, BBC Culture, the New York Times Book Review, Paris Review, the Washington Post, Boston Globe, the Los Angeles Times, and Parade, where she was a longtime contributing editor. More here: www.janeciabattari.com

Denise Low, a former Kansas Poet Laureate, is winner of the Red Mountain Press Editor's Choice Award for *Shadow Light*. Other recent books are *Casino Bestiary* (Spartan) and a memoir, *The Turtle's Beating Heart: One Family's Story of Lenape Survival* (University of Nebraska). A book of docupoetry *House of Grace, House of Blood*, is forthcoming from the University of Arizona Press in 2024. She founded the Creative Writing Program at Haskell Indian Nations University, where she taught and was an administrator. Her Ph.D. in English is from Kansas Univ. and MFA in Creative Writing is from Wichita State Univ. She teaches for Baker University's School of Professional and Graduate Studies. She has Lenape and Munsee heritage.

Clint McKay Clint is the descendant of several important local culture bearers that include the late Laura Fish Somersal and the late Mabel McKay. He is a Native speaker of the Wappo language and he also speaks some Pomo and is himself a culture bearer with extensive Native historical knowledge, not only of Pepperwood but also of the entire region. McKay is a born naturalist with a deep understanding of plant communities and traditional Wappo methods of nurturing them. He is a gifted basket weaver and he serves on the Board of the California Indian Basket Weavers Association. McKay is also a traditional Wappo spiritual leader and he is the headman of a traditional dance group. McKay has a Master's Degree in Indigenous Education.

Deborah A. Miranda was born at UCLA Hospital, the mixed-blood daughter of an Ohlone-Costanoan Esselen Nation man with Santa Ynez Chumash tribal ancestry, and an English/French and Jewish woman from Beverly Hills. In addition to *Bad Indians*, she is also the author of four poetry collections and coeditor of *Sovereign Erotics: A Collection of Two-Spirit Literature*. She earned her Ph.D in English Literature from the University of Washington in Seattle and taught for three years at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma before relocating to Lexington, Virginia. There, she was the Thomas H. Broadus Jr. Endowed Professor of English at Washington and Lee University, teaching literature of the margins and creative writing. She retired from that position in 2021 to focus on writing and creating community. In the Fall of 2022, Deborah and her spouse, writer Margo Solod, relocated to River Song Cohousing in

Eugene, Oregon on the banks of the Willamette River—just a day's ride south on the Coast Starlight to homelands in California.

Greg Sarris received his Ph.D. in Modern Thought and Literature from Stanford University, where he was awarded the Walter Gore Award for excellence in teaching. He has published several books, including the widely anthologized collection of essays, *Keeping Slug Woman Alive: A Holistic Approach to American Indian Texts*, and *Grand Avenue*, an award-winning collection of short stories, which he adapted for an HBO miniseries of the same name and co-executive produced with Robert Redford. His last novel, *Watermelon Nights*, received rave reviews and was adapted for a play by the Santa Rosa Community College Theatre Arts Department. Greg has written plays for Pieces of the Quilt, Intersection Theatre, and the Mark Taper Forum. His play, entitled Mission Indians, opened at the Intersection Theatre in San Francisco, February, 2002, and received the 2003 Bay Area Theatre Critics Award for Best Script. In spring 2008, Word for Word Theatre performed two of his new short stories in over 80 schools in the San Francisco Bay Area. He has completed a collection of short stories as well as a collection of children's stories, *How a Mountain Was Made*, and is currently finishing a new novel.

Kurt Schweigman has published and performed as Luke Warm Water in the past. His poetry appears in *Shedding Skins: Four Sioux Poets* (Michigan State University Press, 2008). He was a featured poet at the prestigious Geraldine R. Dodge 12th Biennial Poetry Festival (2008) and was the first spoken-word poet to receive an Archibald Bush Foundation individual artist fellowship in literature (2005). Although retired from competition, he has won Poetry Slams from California to Germany. Kurt is currently writing his first novel, which is based on his prose poem "Sitting Bull in Paris."

Kim Shuck is a Cherokee Nation poet, author, weaver, and bead work artist who draws from Southeastern Native American culture and tradition as well as contemporary urban Indian life. She was born in San Francisco, California and belongs to the northern California Cherokee diaspora. She is an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma and also has Sac and Fox and Polish ancestry.[2] She earned a B.A. in art (1994), and M.F.A. in Textiles (1998) from San Francisco State University. Her basket weaving work is influenced by her grandmother Etta Mae Rowe and the long history of California Native American basket making. She has taught American Indian Studies at San Francisco State University and was an artist in residence at the de Young Museum in June 2010 with Michael Horse. On June 21, 2017, Mayor Ed Lee named Shuck as the 7th poet laureate of San Francisco.

Project Budget

Artist Fees - \$5000

Programmer Fees - \$1500

Space and Equipment Rental - \$4000

Free Student Tickets - \$1000

Free Community Tickets - \$2500

Promotion and Advertising - \$1000

TOTAL EXPENSES - \$15,000

Ticket Sales - \$4,000

In-Kind Contributions - \$1000

Healdsburg Arts Grant - \$10,000

TOTAL INCOME - \$15,000

Project Timeline

April - September 2024 - Project planning and development

April 2024 - January 2025 - Five Productions (April, Sep, Oct, Nov, Jan,
Exact dates TBD)

January 2025 - Completion and Report

The program will continue through the first half of the annual 2024/2025 season of **THE 222**.

WORK SAMPLES

Kim Shuck

<https://poets.org/poem/we-always-have-been>

Greg Sarris



Denise Low



Clint McKay



Deborah Miranda

