

## City Of Healdsburg Public Art Grants Proposal

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### Your River, Downtown

#### **A collaboration between artists Linus Lancaster, Hugh Livingston, and students at Healdsburg Unified School District.**

*Your River, Downtown* builds a sense of community around the Russian River and its vital role in Healdsburg, demonstrating how artwork can connect audiences to important ecological issues. The project is data-driven, collaborating with Russian Riverkeeper to monitor real-time aspects of the River, and artistically presented, using color, texture and line to depict the community narrative. We celebrate the River with video screens in public places that bring live images and river education to everyone. It is **Your River, Downtown**.

### **Project Details**

#### *Content*

- Live video feeds from the River, above and below the water.
- Animations showing river flow, turbidity, temperature, capacity, potential and other key performance indicators that the community should understand.
- Animations showing all the creeks that feed the Russian River watershed (there are FOUR Mill Creeks?!!)
- Artwork by team leaders and students that interprets the River experience and entertains a Healdsburg audience.

#### *Instantiation*

A computer-based 'dashboard' of data feeds realized as artwork, live video, and other rich content, displayed on large video screens.

#### *Presentation*

Screens will be deployed in public locations around town. Currently confirmed participants hosting a video display are: Cartograph tasting room, Craftwork co-working space, Livingston Projects @Loft120, Harmon Guest House. Future participants would likely include **high-traffic locations** such as City offices, tasting rooms, coffee shops, real estate agencies, hotels, gyms, Chamber of Commerce visitor center.

#### *Technology*

Ultra-high definition video displays, media players, content management system (CMS), javascript dashboard software, real-time API data capture from web sources, real-time broadcasting waterproof cameras installed above and below water, generative art software (javascript).

#### *Artwork*

Hugh and Linus have varied artistic practices to bring to this project: creating painting pigments drawn from local soils, deriving color palettes seen in the surface of the Russian River, using animated text to show how the creeks flow, and more common practices such as photography, sound recording, and video. These media will be used to create **vivid artistic content on video screens** that give voice to the River, interpreted by the student participants, as well as interested community members.

#### *Student and Community Participation*

Linus Lancaster will be directing his Art and Climate Club students at Healdsburg High School. This creates the opportunity for younger people to get involved, learn about local ecology, help with the research for digital content, and learn the software and techniques used to create the displayed videos. We hope to include River live-streamed video to enhance the currency of the downtown experience. Thus, we look to the COH Public Art Grant as seed money for a longer-term series of **community-engaged** art projects.

#### *Building On Experience: Where We Are Now*

Linus and his students have been developing a floating platform and ceramic buoys (aesthetic objects, *plus* functionality) that can be used to deploy underwater cameras at River sites. This engages students in construction, materials, and problem-solving, and connects environmental understanding to the artwork that will result from these processes. Hugh has been programming software for interpretation of real-time data, and generating artistic responses to depict riverflow and other key indicators, with the cooperation of local agencies and organizations such as Riverkeeper.

#### *Scope of Grant Project*

- Purchase and deploy one video screen (Cartograph), and utilize existing video infrastructure (Craftwork, Harmon Guest House, Livingston Projects) to bring the River downtown.
- Purchase action camera and direct students in collecting River footage
- Lead students to explore artistic responses to data, develop visualizations that can be seen on the screens, and understand community calls to action on environmental issues through artmaking

#### *Future Development*

The project will ultimately grow into a community-centered art piece that creates great awareness of the River and its daily to seasonal to annual changes. We will seek to deploy many more screens around town so that the **narrative of river health** in our community is part of the daily rhythm of coffee or post office runs, and none of us lose track of the vitality of water in our midst. Future partners, beyond the scope of this seed grant, will be asked to provide a video screen as our canvas, and the content will be created with future artistic grants.

## **Project Partners**

The two lead artists will bring together community contributions (particularly from youth) as they do with all of their projects and productions. Confirmed partners are Russian Riverkeeper, Harmon Guest House, Gallery @Loft120, Craftwork, Cartograph Wines, Medlock Ames Winery, HUSD.

## **Artists' Qualifications**

**Linus Lancaster** is a sculptor and conceptual artist who has been teaching drawing, ceramics, construction, and maker classes at Healdsburg High School since 2002. For a number of years he has also been teaching ceramics, STEAM, and rocketry to younger students through the Healdsburg Center for the Arts and Corazon. Prior to the pandemic he was volunteering as an adjunct professor of English for the Prison University Project at San Quentin. He has a BFA in illustration from USF, an MA in art practice and philosophy from SSU, and a PhD in art practice and soil studies from Plymouth University (UK). All of his graduate-level work has been done in collaboration with his students at HHS. He has done a number of large scale public installations in and around Healdsburg. Most of his current work is focused on local ecology and early radio technology. He and his students have published several book chapters and articles in international scholarly journals on subjects such as art theory, ecology, and political interventionism.

**Hugh Livingston** is a composer and media artist, working with sound, video, ecology, and data visualization. Hugh graduated cum laude in music from Yale, recipient of the Bach Society Prize for excellence in musicianship and contribution to musical life at Yale. He has an MFA from the California Institute of the Arts and a doctorate from the University of California, San Diego.

Dr. Livingston has been a Smithsonian Artist Research Fellow, Artist in Residence at Fort Mason Center for Arts & Culture at the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, McKnight Foundation Fellow Composer in Residence in Minneapolis, and the recipient of numerous grants from foundations such as Rockefeller, Getty, Doris Duke, Andrew Mellon, Fleishhacker, and Haas. He was four-time sound artist-in-residence at the Dumbarton Oaks Gardens in Washington, DC. Listen Edgemar, his first of 58 sound installations around the world, was created for a Frank Gehry-designed building in Santa Monica. His most recent book contribution is on contemporary sound garden design, from Harvard University Press. His sound and video work re-interpreting ancient Chinese bells has been on view at the Smithsonian's Freer|Sackler Galleries of Asian Art for three years.

Hugh has worked in collaboration with Russian Riverkeeper since 2010 to produce River-related projects: sound and video installations, *Catch & Release*, at Slaughterhouse Space; a permanent sound garden, *Sound & Place*, at the Sonoma County Museum; a river opera, *Stages of the Russian River*, at Warnecke Ranch & Vineyards; *Vineyard Voices*, a GPS-enabled immersive sound app at Medlock Ames Winery’s Bell Mountain Ranch; a video gallery installation, *Livingston Projects*, at Loft120; an interactive mobile sound app for the *Illuminations* project with Jessica Martin in downtown Healdsburg; and currently on view at the Harmon Guest House, *Healdsburg Metrics*, a multi-channel video installation featuring oak trees, creek flows, and river rock.

**Project Budget** (requesting at Individual Artist Grant level)

Video Screen (43" UHD Commercial Video Display, 400 NITS, 18/7 operation)	\$820
GoPro action camera for River documentation, mounts and filters	320
Installation hardware	210
Promotional Costs (postcards and social media management)	140
Student materials	85
Artists’ Stipend	925
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$2,500</b>

**Timeline** (April–August, 2024)

April-May	Complete related student art projects
April	Record videos, prepare initial video sources, with a planned debut at the Healdsburg Climate Festival
May	Arrange publicity and install screen at a selected public downtown location
June	Capture additional river footage and build additional video files
July	Deploy screens at new locations around town.
August	Fundraising for next phases

