



CREATIVE ART PROGRAMS

Friends of Flockworks,

As October comes to a close, we eagerly embrace the exciting opportunities of November and the upcoming holidays! We're excited to share some highlights from last month. In October, we centered our efforts on remembrance and collaboration, showcasing the incredible work being done by our team and in the community while honoring those who laid a strong foundation for us.

Internal News

Staff Professional Development

On Monday, October 28th, our afterschool staff had the opportunity to attend a Neurodiversity Professional Development session at the JD Center, led by experts from the Redwood Coast Regional Center. We were joined by staff from Match Disability Services and the Mendocino Coast Recreation and Park District, fostering a collaborative environment to better serve our community's diverse needs. We're grateful for the partnership of these organizations as we work together to enhance support and understanding for all!

On Campus

Art@School

Celebrating Día de los Muertos

Norma Trejo led an inspiring initiative at Dana Gray Elementary with a community altar project that beautifully intersects culture, art, education, and community. This project honors Día de los Muertos, a cherished tradition that allows us to celebrate and remember our loved ones who have passed.



Norma's vision for this project arose after witnessing students who had lost loved ones struggling to find healthy outlets for their emotions. She recognized the need for a space where they could express their grief while keeping their loved ones alive through the stories they share. This initiative not only fosters healing, but also strengthens our community bonds through shared remembrance and celebration.

As students and families arrived to create ofrendas for their loved ones, traditional Mexican sweet bread and "chocolate abuelita," Mexico's famous hot cocoa, were shared. Boxes and wreaths were available for participants to add real flowers, craft their own paper flowers, and incorporate other elements to honor those who have passed. Educational posters about the origins of the tradition and the elements of the altar enhanced the experience, making it both meaningful and informative.

A special thank you to Kathrine and Sara from Black Dog Farm in Ukiah for the beautiful marigolds that brought our ofrenda to life. We truly appreciate the connections we're building beyond Fort Bragg within our larger Mendocino County community!

We're also excited to share that Tanya Ayala, our Communications and Outreach Director, was recently featured on KZYXfm discussing the significance of Día de los Muertos with MendoLatino. We're excited about these new



connections and look forward to doing more shows together in the future!

Celebrating Visionaries: Janet Self and the Creative Spirit of Flockworks

Spreading JOY Through Art! Flockworks is dedicated to providing valuable hands-on art experiences for the community, led by our skilled Community Artist and Founder, Janet Self. Her creations exemplify how art can unite individuals and enhance our community's vibrancy.

Recently, Janet spearheaded two mural projects at local schools, connecting 529 elementary students to hands-on art. These vibrant initiatives beautify the schools while encouraging creativity, collaboration, and exploration of visual storytelling. Over six full days, students engaged in painting murals centered around science themes. Working in small groups, they contributed their unique touches, transforming the murals into exciting collective artworks that filled the schools with joy. As **Janet says, "At this stage in my life, I aim to choose things that bring me JOY!"**



At El Verano School, the mural depicted the Sonoma Creek Watershed, highlighting local ecology with trees, animals, and flowing waters. Meanwhile, at Brooks School, they celebrated the “Pollinators Garden” with 189 fifth graders, capturing their garden journey and creating a lasting legacy.

Despite her initial anxieties about taking on such a physical project at age 68, the joy from the children and the support from her partner and fellow artist, Beth Biermann, fueled her determination. Together, they navigated the challenges and created beautiful memories.

We were delighted to honor Janet and her remarkable work at our Creative Communities: Past and Present event this past weekend. This gathering celebrated the special individuals who have been foundational to Flockworks. A poignant remembrance tree was dedicated to those like Joanna Wigginton, who may no longer be with us but continue to inspire us through her legacy. We are immensely grateful for the lasting impact they have made.



The atmosphere was truly beautiful, with Janet’s art enhancing every corner and a wonderful turnout of community members and partners. Our heartfelt thanks go to Janet for her passion, love, and unwavering dedication to art and community. Your efforts have been instrumental in shaping Flockworks into a stronger and more enriched organization. We also want to express our gratitude to all our partners for their ongoing support. We are truly thankful for our amazing community.

Special message from Janet who extends her deepest appreciation and gratitude:

"Almost 20 years ago, I jumped into this crazy puzzle of creative engagement that I've been playing with ever since. I led Flockworks with this same creative spirit — figure it out as things unfolded. I have learned so much and enjoyed nearly every moment and all the many projects and initiatives. It has been an amazing, life-shaping experience, filled with joy and wonder. My deepest appreciation and gratitude to all those who have been part of this adventurous journey!"



Flockworks at the Magic Market: A Costume Contest Success!

Flockworks recently had the pleasure of participating in the Magic Market, where we organized a fantastic Costume Contest that saw a great turnout! It was wonderful to witness our downtown come to life with creativity and spirit.

First and foremost, we'd like to thank Cristal, Administrative Analyst, and the City of Fort Bragg for trusting us with this project. We love working alongside them.



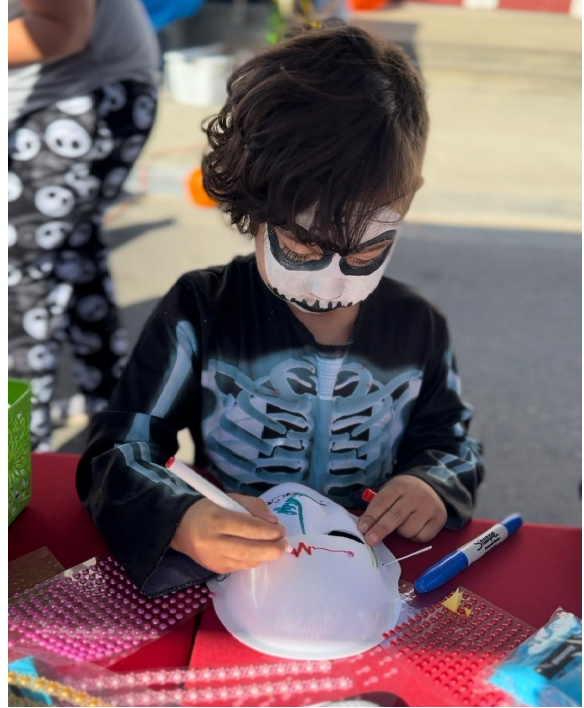
A special thank you to our dedicated judges:

- Kaz Costa, Flockworks
- Dani Chan, Community Member and Halloween Enthusiast
- Yahaira Valenzuela, Cancer Resource Center
- Faith Simon, Nurse Practitioner, Pediatric Team
- Chris Neller, FBMS Teacher
- Moneque Wooden, C.V. Starr Center

We also want to **extend our gratitude to Noyo Fish Co., Coast Cinemas, and Big Foot for providing lovely prizes for our winners.**

In addition to the contest, our Flockworks team hosted a tabling activity where attendees could make Día de los Muertos masks and vibrant paper flowers to add to their creations. It was heartwarming to see families and friends come together to learn about, celebrate and honor this beautiful tradition.

Thank you to everyone who joined us for this magical event. We had a blast and can't wait to see you all next year!



Stay tuned for more updates and engaging opportunities in the coming month, and remember, your involvement is the cornerstone of our success. Here's to another month of creativity, growth, and community spirit!

The Flockworks Team

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