

Dream Big...or Stay Home?!

I am very proud of what we accomplished this spring and summer. We had 2 goals – move the Dolphin Gallery and host the 59th Annual Art in the Redwoods.

First up we moved out of a spot the Dolphin was in for 40 years, found a new home for gallery, rehabbed the space, moved fixtures in, repopulated inventory of artists, created a COVID-19 safe retail space and set up 3 monthly gallery exhibits.

Next we needed to reimagine Art in the Redwood into a COVID-19 safe event. We envisioned an Online! exhibit and curbside pick-up fundraiser dinner. We secured a new website, sorted through dozens of online platforms, created new call to artists, created new judging criteria, assisted 120 artists to present 398 pieces of art, secured judges and sponsors for awards, cut over \$5K in prize checks and sold over 10% of entries so far. We served up 142 to-go fundraiser dinners from St. Orres paired with wonderful Woodenhead wines. I am proud to say that with a few more sales this month it looks like we may just make our regular anticipated financial Art in the Redwoods budget this year!

Now it is time to reimagine our fall and 2021.

New Goals Re-imagined: Re-open Gualala Arts galleries for retail sales, open commercial grade kitchen, host interactive workshops and simulcast live concerts.

When Holly Stiel proposed the exhibit in 2019 entitled “My Valuables What Matters,” including sculpture, photography, poetry, short story, and music I was moved by the idea. It was the artists’ (Holly Stiel and Peg Videtta) response to the many wild fires in California. Little did I know that when we chose the date for the show, (October of 2020) that it would be the uncannily synchronistic timing to re-open the Arts Center with something as thought provoking, as re-assessing what is important to us during these many existential crises.

Since we have all been assessing and re-assessing these very thoughts, we are including a community collage that will be ever changing and will be up for the entire exhibit.

I don't know about you but I have had an awful lot of bizarre dreams these days. It is a delicate dance to dream big and executing safely. Never before has it been such a challenge for me to walk that line of taking peoples' visions and rallying volunteers and staff to execute these dreams to reality.

Together, we will continue to do our best to create a platform for artists to share art, SAFELY!

David “Sus” Susalla
Executive Director
Gualala Arts