



November 2022

Arts Benicia begins the next 35 years ...

In September of this year, Arts Benicia celebrated its 35th anniversary with an exhibition highlighting the theme of generational mentoring – artists helping other artists along their creative journeys. We know that Arts Benicia would not have survived over three decades without that helping spirit, that belief in the importance of the creative arts in enhancing our lives, and the knowledge that it takes a village to ensure that everyone can experience the arts. We thank you for the support you provided for Arts Benicia in 2022 and invite you to join us as we launch another year of nurturing the arts in our community.

We have so much to look back on with gratitude in 2022. We moved in January to our new location in the Commanding Officer's Quarters (COQ) in the Benicia Arsenal. We are thankful for the support of the City of Benicia in securing our lease and the amazing donations from the community in helping us make the necessary adaptations to the space for use as an art gallery, with classrooms and offices.



Arts Benicia at the Commanding Officer's Quarters



Family Art Day at the COQ

We produced eight exhibitions in the new gallery spaces – with our small works Gems V exhibition that just opened this month – and hosted member previews and receptions with music and thousands of visitors. We brought back our in-person classes, hosted several Family Art Days, and introduced new instructors and classes at both the COQ and the Annex classroom – where our printmaking program continues to thrive and grow. We brought Arts Benicia Presents back to the City Council Chambers, and continued installations in Happy Life Pottery, Olson Realty, and STIIIZY. We participated in the Benicia Arsenal Artists Open Studios featuring hands-on demos from members of the Printmaker's Workshop. We welcomed three new staff members to help us with our youth art education, social media outreach and to support the printmaking program.

We know that 2023 will bring new challenges and opportunities. We look forward to further rebuilding our adult education program in our new location and launching the



Artists in our 35 by 35 Exhibition

Mike Kendall Project Space artist program. We also want to expand our teen art program to previous levels by scheduling classes focused specifically on teen interests and development and strengthening our teen mentoring program. We plan to develop our docent training program, taking advantage of our historic building location, which invites so much interest from our visitors.

Please consider helping us accomplish these goals and more with your generous donation now.

We have set a goal of \$25,000 for our annual fundraising drive to support program operating costs for the coming year. Thank you for being a part of our community and for your support, enthusiasm, and generosity. We encourage you to celebrate the creativity within and around you.

With great appreciation,

Celeste Smeland,  
Executive Director

Janet Glore Davis,  
Chairperson, Board of Directors

Arts Benicia is a 501 (c)(3) organization with Tax ID 68-0157927

To make a donation, please visit <https://artsbenicia.org/donate/> and click on "Donate Now" or mail your check to Arts Benicia, PO Box 545, Benicia, CA 94510.

Did you know ... if you are 70½ or older, that you can make a Qualified Charitable Distribution to Arts Benicia or another qualified charitable organization through your IRA and pay no income taxes on the amount of your gift? To learn more and discover other ways to give, visit <https://artsbenicia.org/support/> and contact us at [info@artsbenicia.org](mailto:info@artsbenicia.org)