



## **COUNTY OF LAKE**

### **Board of Supervisors**

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March 6, 2018

California Arts Council  
1300 I Street, Suite 930  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear California Arts Council:

Today, we write to express our support for the Middletown Art Center's 2018 Local Impact grant application.

The MAC has emerged as a vibrant cultural community hub celebrating and promoting all forms of the arts for, from, and about the people of Lake County. MAC is a vital contributor to Lake County's recovery following the savage Valley Fire of 2015, and Clayton and Sulphur Fires of 2016 and 2017, which devastated our close-knit region and its stunning rural setting. MAC is an important cultural gathering place for our citizens, especially for the people (including many artists) whose homes (and studios) were incinerated.

MAC occupies a large, brightly lit historical building in central Middletown that operates as a community center, gallery, cinema, musical venue and spoken word stage; offers classes and instruction for all ages; and maintains a year-round sculpture garden on a formerly barren lot where two main roads converge. Prior to the fire, the organization's EcoArts: Lake County Sculpture Walk at the County's Trailside Park was a popular destination for locals and visitors. Our underserved rural area finds art, meaning, and beauty through MAC's activities.

We appreciate the competitive nature of the Council's grant programs and applaud your commitment to bringing Council resources to every corner of California. We are grateful to the Arts Council and to MAC for implementation of their 'Resilience' project through your 2017 Local Impact grant. We have grown stronger as a community through the presence of art that commemorates our healing process.

The people of Lake County are resilient, capable, and optimistic, yet in so many ways we are still in the midst of our recovery – a process that involves much more than replacing lost infrastructure. It also includes restoring our psychological health and our deep connection to our natural environment. Your support of MAC's Local Impact grant application in 2018 will bring us closer to that goal.

Sincerely,

Jim Steele  
Chairman  
Lake County Board of Supervisors