



**COUNTY OF LAKE
BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Courthouse - 255 North Forbes Street
Lakeport, California 95453
TELEPHONE (707) 263-2368
FAX (707) 263-2207

Moke Simon – District 1

Bruno Sabatier – District 2

Eddie Crandell – District 3

Tina Scott – District 4

Jessica Pyska – District 5

February 2, 2021

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

Dear California Arts Council:

We are writing to express our support for the Middletown Art Center's (MAC's) 2021 Local Impact grant application.

MAC has established itself as a vibrant cultural community hub, celebrating and promoting all forms of the arts for, from and about the people of Lake County. MAC has been a vital contributor to Lake County's recovery from our numerous disaster events, including 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 has been an important cultural gathering place for our citizens, especially for the people (including many artists) whose homes and studios were consumed by fire. In 2020 and 2021, MAC has again stepped up to help people and artists connect in a safe manner during the COVID-19 pandemic.

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. In 2019, the organization's popular EcoArts: Lake County Sculpture Walk once again captivated locals and visitors at Middletown's Trailside Park, a triumphant return, just four years after the park was devastated by fire. Our underserved rural area finds art, meaning and beauty through MAC's activities.

We appreciate the competitive nature of your Council's grant programs, and applaud your commitment to bringing Council resources to every corner of California. We are particularly grateful to the Arts Council and to MAC for implementation of their "Resilience" and "Restore" projects through your 2017 and 2018 Local Impact grants; 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.

Thank you for all of the important work you do to support artists and enrich the life and cultural history of communities. We also very much appreciate your considering the critical place MAC has occupied in Lake County, as we have fought to recover from repeated disaster events.

Respectfully submitted,

Bruno Sabatier, Chair