



nimbus news brief

2022 FALL/WINTER HIGHLIGHTS

Fun-Filled + (Free!) Fall Community Festivities!

As the season changed and our local grape harvest was winding down, Nimbus Arts filled the community with events and programs for all!



The season kicked off with our **3rd Annual Floating Pumpkins Exhibit**. Community artists of all ages picked their perfect pumpkin and carved away following their individual artistic inspiration. The completed pumpkins (more than 150 in all!) were mounted on stakes, illuminated, and displayed in the Farmstead Garden. The exhibit ran through the Halloween weekend and was enjoyed by hundreds of community members and visitors.

On Sunday October 30th, Nimbus Arts and UpValley Family Centers presented our **14th Annual Día de los Muertos Celebration**. Produced in conjunction with our partners at the UpValley Family Centers, this celebration of Mexican American culture, history, & art returned to the Napa Valley College Upper Valley Campus site. Showcasing amazing cultural traditions and community altar exhibits, the event offered special art installations, music, dance, culinary delights, historical displays, and free traditional crafts for the whole family. More than 500 people participated this year!



The Día de los Muertos Community Celebration was generously sponsored by the City of Saint Helena, the Maldonado Family Foundation and Walker Construction. We are deeply thankful for their support.

November 12 and 13 saw our **Nimbus Arts Open House + Art Market** return. We welcomed hundreds of locals + visitors to our studio for hands-on art activities, our fabulous art market, and a chance to meet and mingle with our team of talented artist-instructors and art lovers from across Napa Valley.

Teen Tuesday Open Studio 2023

Artmaking delivers proven health + wellness benefits and making art with others strengthens interpersonal connections and communication.

Starting in early 2023, Nimbus Arts will deliver these benefits to teens in our community every Tuesday with free art programming. Melissa and Mercedes Baker, the acclaimed Nimbus Arts dynamic duo, will provide instruction + guidance on a diverse + rotating variety of media and themes to young people between 12 - 19 years old. Teen Tuesday will help provide a safe, healthy, affirming, and creative outlet for teenagers throughout our community.

As a free art program, Teen Tuesday will deliver important benefits to our community. Nimbus Arts is seeking support to offset costs for producing this program. Please give through our Year-End appeal or online through our website at nimbusarts.org/donate.



“Migration”: The Journey of the Mariposa and Paloma Altar

Nimbus Arts presented “Migration” as a central theme of our 2022 Día de los Muertos Community Art Installation. Designed to show reverence for the Monarch Butterfly, or Mariposa, more than 120 free art kits were distributed to families and individuals, along with information on the Monarch Butterfly’s unique migration journey, amazing cultural symbolism, and immense importance as pollinators. Community members of all ages and ability levels transformed the Mariposa forms into personalized works of art, each telling its own story emphasizing the Mariposa’s migration between the USA and Mexico, and the parallel immigration stories of many members of our community.



The finished artworks were then assembled into a large public installation displayed in downtown St. Helena from October 24 through November 6, 2022.

Nimbus also featured the Paloma or Dove, a symbol of peace, love, and purity, as the central element of this year’s community altar at the Día de los Muertos celebration. Doves appear in the mythologies and folklore of many cultures around the world. The Aztecs and other Mexican Indian tribes saw the dove as a symbol of love, associated with the goddess Xochiquetzal, and often depicted them on wedding ornaments, while in Christianity, the dove is associated with the Holy Spirit. Guests attending the community celebration participated in a family art activity decorating hand-made ceramic dove candle holders, a traditional Mexican form.

Hundreds of Hands™ #016 Tractors on Parade: Community Art Installation 2022

For 26 years, Calistoga has welcomed the holiday season with its famous Lighted Tractor Parade. This year, Nimbus celebrated this joyful event with its 16th Hundreds of Hands community art project. 120 tractor silhouettes were distributed to community members to decorate and personalize. The completed tractor artwork was collected by the Nimbus Arts team and assembled into a vibrant installation right on the parade route. Tractors on Parade was displayed for two weeks from November 23rd until December 7th at the Dr. Wilkinson’s Resort Wall on the corner of Fair Way and Lincoln St. in downtown Calistoga.



The “Tractors on Parade” Community Art Installation was generously sponsored by Dr. Wilkinson’s Backyard Resort & Mineral Springs and Walker Building Co. We are deeply thankful for their generosity and support.

Expanded School Programming with Napa County Juvenile Hall + Palisades

Our important and effective fine + industrial arts instruction program for at-risk teens in Napa County continues to grow. Nimbus artists will be delivering instruction at Juvenile Hall, Crossroads School, and at our Nimbus Studios, where we teach printmaking, ceramics, mosaics, and more through Calistoga's Palisades program. These instruction programs offer an important outlet for creativity + self-expression and provide a first step in developing vocational skills that can grow into a career.

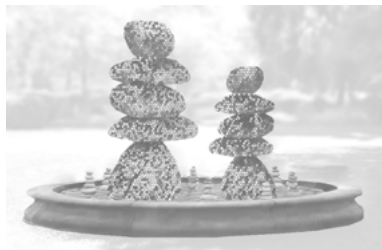


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Hundreds of Hands™ #017; Stone Stacking + Mentis collective collaboration

Nimbus Arts is teaming with Mentis, Napa Valley's center for mental health services, and **Teens Connect**, its wonderful youth wellness program, to deliver hands-on art activities and highlight mental health issues and services available in Napa County.

Launching in early 2023, we'll be activating community members + highlighting the health and wellness benefits of artmaking



through the ancient, meditative, and spiritual activity of stacking stones into "cairns." Stone stacking's focus on balance and stability parallels emotional health, and it is symbolic of our latest collaboration with Mentis. Teens participating

in the Teens Connect program from across Napa Valley will work with community members to create personal mosaics that will be assembled onto large-scale stone forms.

The completed mosaic-adorned cairns will be stacked twelve-foot high! The massive mosaic stone stacks will be surrounded by natural stones and will serve to educate and inspire others to create their own cairns, and to reflect and seek steadiness.

Our Hundreds of Hands community art programs are free and open to all. Participating helps us build and strengthen community and activate the spirit and artistry of people of all ages and backgrounds. We need your help to continue to deliver these important programs; please give through our Year-End appeal or online through our website at nimbusarts.org/donate.

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Make Community Art Your Legacy

Make community art your legacy. Estate Planning provides a way to support the things that are important to you for years after your passing — to deepen and continue your legacy. Nimbus Arts launched its Planned Giving program last year and we continue to grow the program as we celebrate our 18th year in the community. Please visit our planned giving page for more information on the program and the many options available to join the Nimbus Arts Planned Giving Program.



Nimbus classes + camps are in full swing for the holiday season!

We are delighted to be offering a diverse range of classes, camps, and workshops through the holiday season and into the New Year. Check out our website for details and to enroll. Scholarships are always available for those who want to participate.



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NIMBASH 2023 - SAVE THE DATE - Saturday, May 13

Celebrating art in our community for the 14th year, NIMBASH 2023 will be held on May 13th at Charles Krug Winery. Stay tuned for more details; tickets will go on sale in early-2023.

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We love our Leadership Circle & Donors

Leadership Circle is the highest donor level offered by Nimbus Arts and is vitally important to the organization's operation and mission. Commitments to the Leadership Circle are multi-year, enabling Nimbus Arts to more effectively designate funds to specific areas of need or opportunity. Leadership Circle donations amplify and expand the impact of other grants, gifts, and donations, helping Nimbus make the most of the generosity and support of our community.



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Nimbus Artist Profile: Neil Sucheck

Neil Sucheck has been collecting production knives for about 30 years, searching for the perfect do-all EDC (everyday carry) knife. He never found exactly what he was looking for, so back in 2015,



he and his wife enrolled in a blacksmithing class through The School of Visual Arts in Brooklyn, NY, to learn how to make hand forged knives. Blacksmithing and blade smithing classes followed, and he found his passion.

Neil became a Teacher's Assistant for these classes and about 5 ½ years ago started to teach the classes himself.

A cross-country move to California came next. At Nimbus Arts, Neil teaches a myriad of dynamic and very popular blade smithing classes. His addition to our metal arts team "sharpened" our offerings and his popular programs have proven to be a "cut" above!

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Our 2021 Annual Report Released

Check out our 2021 Annual Report, now available on the Nimbus Arts website. The report charts how Nimbus Arts adapted and modified operations as restrictions on group gatherings and in-person classes evolved. Our mission to keep art accessible and available to all remains strong and the stories of 2021 are inspiring and affirming.



Follow Creativity!

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