



nimbus news brief

2024 SPRING/SUMMER HIGHLIGHTS

Elevated Art Intelligence at NIMBASH 2024

The 14th Annual NIMBASH fundraiser on Saturday May 11, 2024 brought together more than 400 art lovers and Nimbus supporters and raised over \$700,000 to support local artists and the ongoing community art projects of Nimbus Arts. The record-setting Fund-A-Need alone raised over \$192,000!



The NIMBASH theme of **“AI + Art Intelligence”** celebrated the emergence of artificial intelligence, the intelligence of art, and the intelligence of our natural world. Guests participated in art activities including creating ink-painted mushroom portraits, hand-glazing heart-and-mind ceramic pieces and creating their own perfume with essences distilled from valley trees. This year’s spectacular recycled fashion show featured a wide array of emboldened designs, some modeled by former students and art assistants.

Providing employment and income for local artists is at the core of the Nimbus Arts’ mission, and NIMBASH delivered more than 50% of the art sale income through commissions and wages to working artists. More than \$150,000 will be paid to our local art contributors and hundreds of their original art works are now decorating homes in Napa Valley and beyond.

We are grateful for the continued support of our board of directors, the leadership circle, sponsors, and donors (large + small) that make this evening possible. Please save the date for our **15th Annual NIMBASH on May 17, 2025!**

“Collector’s Café” — Bringing the Masters to our community!

Our Collectors Café series is thriving! These salon-style guest lectures, fabulous visiting artists, and special artisan workshops cover a wide range of topics and ideas in the world of art.

This spring we hosted sculptor/ceramicist **Malia Landis** from Mendocino County who creates intricate nature-inspired porcelain sculptures. Malia led an inspiring 2-day press-mold and paper clay workshop where students created stunning botanical ceramics using intricate hand-working techniques.



Hosting artist **Megumi Lorna Inouye** was a real gift! Megumi taught the art of specialty gift wrapping and paper box making.

Megumi’s magical class was followed by a book signing of her new book: “The Soul of Giftwrapping.”

We also welcomed back **Maki Aizawa**, who taught an inspiring Kintsugi class last fall. This time she presented a “Nuitsugi” workshop where students explored various traditional mending techniques — both



functional and beautiful — used in the kimono-making process. After this fascinating class, Maki and her mother **Tsuyo Onodera**, a life-long master kimono maker, hosted a lecture and trunk show.

We are incredibly grateful to be able to collaborate with these special artists and have a whole new slate in store for you this Fall!



Juvenile Hall Students Create Murals featuring the Beauty of California

Our work with Napa County’s Juvenile Hall students began in 2016 and has expanded considerably as student enthusiasm and staff trust in the power of art has grown.

Collaborating with trained artists, youth incarcerated at Juvenile Hall have recently completed two large outdoor murals to beautify a courtyard outside their classroom. The plan is to decorate all four walls, each 40’ long and 10’ high, with imagery depicting landmarks from Southern California and up through the north.



We are excited to begin our 3rd mural this summer — it will include the state capitol, the SF region, and our local Napa Valley.

Napa County Arts & Culture Advisory Committee Grant Awarded to Nimbus Arts

A Napa County Arts and Culture grant of \$20,000 was awarded to Nimbus to upgrade our online class registration software. These funds will allow us to purchase and customize **new software to improve the user registration experience**, particularly for those using smart phones. With more than 700 classes offered to our community annually, this is a critically important upgrade. In addition, we received \$2,500 to support a workshop for Nimbus staff and members of the board on the core topics of **Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion**.

The City of St. Helena awarded Nimbus Arts a \$10,000 grant to support **free Nimbus art activities at community events** in the St. Helena community throughout the year, including Nimbus Teen Tuesdays, St. Helena Harvest Festival, Dia de los Muertos, and the St. Helena Holiday Celebration.

We are so grateful for this generous support of our programs by our local governments!

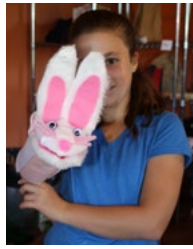


A Tradition of Stewardship
A Commitment to Service



Join Nimbus at the Napa Valley Puppetry Festival

The Napa Valley Puppetry Festival, coordinated by beloved local artist, David Garden, will be held at the White Barn on July 26-28. Enjoy performances for the whole family, featuring marionettes, rod puppets, giant puppets, puppet-making workshops, ventriloquism, demos and more! **Nimbus Arts will roll up in the “Nim+BUS” for a Sock Puppet-Making workshop on Saturday and Sunday.** There will be free outdoor shows for kids, sophisticated performances for teens, and classes and shows for adults. Kids can also get firsthand experience in the Puppet Playground. **Don’t miss this wonderful weekend of wonder!**



“As children, we all live in a world of imagination, of fantasy, and for some of us that world of make-believe continues into adulthood.” — Jim Henson

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“Nim+BUS” is rolling out with creative instructors and tons of fun!

The “Nim+BUS” brought teaching artists and a mosaic art project to the first annual **Youth Mental Health Action Day** at St. Helena High School on Thursday May 23, 2024, held in honor of Mental Health Awareness Month in partnership with the Claro/Clara Mental Health Ambassadors. This student-led event was created to highlight mental health services available to students and destigmatize mental health in a comfortable setting. **Over 80 students attended the event and 25 participated in our Mosaic Stone Stacking Project** resulting in experiencing the mental health benefits of artmaking with peers. Organizations including Aldea, Up Valley Family Centers, Claro/Clara and St. Helena High School Associate Student Body shared mental health resources and provided additional engaging activities.

Watch the calendar for more “Nim+BUS” events this Summer.

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Nimbus + Mentis = Community Collaboration!

Our very impactful stone-stacking mosaic-making collaboration with Mentis & Teens Connect is going strong, and it has helped us establish some exciting new partnerships!

We have worked with 15 Napa County Non-profits and schools to offer 22 free workshops in the Napa Valley Community, with nearly 500 participants attending. Workshops have been held in American Canyon, Napa, St. Helena, Angwin and Calistoga. Partner Organizations include the American Canyon Parks and Community Foundation, Boys and Girl Club Napa Valley, Claro/Clara, Club 1515, COPE Family Center, First 5 Napa County, Girls on the Run, Justin Siena High School, Mentis, NBC Pottery, NEWS-Domestic Violence & Sexual Abuse Services, Palisades High School, Rainbow Family League, Teens Connect, and Up Valley Family Centers, with many more partnerships to come.



This project has been made possible through grants from California Arts Council, San Francisco Foundation, PG&E, and the Napa County Arts & Culture Committee.

Summer classes and camps are in full swing!

Summer is here and so are Nimbus Arts Summer Camps. We will be re-exploring our all-time favorites like Clay and Play, Parade and Float Camp, Farm Fresh, and Bothe Nature Camp while adding some exciting new options! **These camps are designed for young people ages 6 - 13, led by the Nimbus arty team of instructors and super-talented teen art assistants.** Head to our website to enroll your kids, and while you are there, check out the adult offerings too! Scholarships are always available for those who would like to participate; financial aid request forms are available on our website.

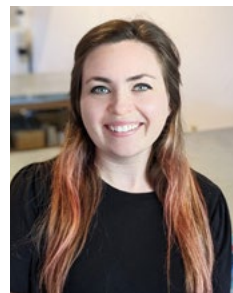


We hope to see you at Nimbus this Summer!

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Nimbus Staff Profile: Emily Griffin-Skura, Administration & Events Coordinator

Emily Griffin-Skura grew up in Napa Valley and is thrilled to be serving her community as the Administration and Events Coordinator at Nimbus Arts. After graduating from Linfield University, she moved to Galway, Ireland to be with her now husband, Sebastian. In Ireland, Emily pursued a Master of Arts Policy and Practice from the University of Galway. Emily worked on any art-related gig she could find, including front of house at the Town Hall Theatre and administration for the Galway Film Fleadh. Emily and Sebastian decided



to move back to California to be closer to Emily’s family, which became invaluable when their daughter Sadie was born last year.

Joining the Nimbus Arts family in October 2022, Emily coordinates the daily routine of inspired activities for Nimbus Arts, and is responsible for our class calendar and registration, social media and email messages, and coordination of all private events and lessons. As a key organizer of the NIMBASH auction database, Emily sets the team up for success with her dedication, enthusiasm, and diligence. Emily is one of the first people you may meet when you visit the studios and she brings a love of all art forms, a hope that people never stop creating, and a dream of helping everyone find their place in the art world. Come by and say hello soon!

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Legacy Giving

Consider making community art part of your legacy. Many people across Napa County and beyond appreciate and value all that Nimbus Arts brings to our community, and some have expressed a desire to facilitate a planned gift for Nimbus Arts. Please visit our Planned Giving page at <https://nimbusarts.planned.gifts/> for more information on the program and the many options available to join the Nimbus Arts Planned Giving Program.



nimbus arts

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