nimbus news brief

2026 YEAR-END HIGHLIGHTS

Art & Healthy Relationships: Nimbus Arts + NEWS

Nimbus Arts partnered with NEWS (Nurturing, Empowerment, Worth, Safety) — a Napa County nonprofit dedicated to preventing relationship violence and abuse — to lead a series of free, hands-on art workshops for local teens during Teen Dating Violence Awareness and Prevention Month.

NEWS advocates connected the creative process to the organization's "I'd Peel an Orange for You" campaign while Nimbus teaching artists guided students through free "orange" inspired art activities in mosaics, ceramics, painting, printmaking, and more. Students explored the themes of care, respect, and healthy boundaries while creating wonderful works of art.

SANTA ROSA PRESS DEMOCRAT

"When students come together to work in a creative setting, there are really inspiring moments of connection. These events are an invitation for students to express their own ideas and better understand the message of this meaningful NEWS campaign," said Nimbus Arts Executive Director Jamie Graff.

The series ran in February at the Napa Boys & Girls Club, Nimbus Arts studios, Calistoga Junior-Senior High, Palisades High in Calistoga, American Canyon Middle School, and at Napa Juvenile Hall. The student artwork was later celebrated at a special exhibition at our Nimbus Riverside Studio in Napa — a powerful reminder that art can be a medium for connection, healing, and lasting change.

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Nimbus Arts Is Taking Root in Napa

In late 2025, we opened the doors to our Nimbus Riverside Studio — a vibrant, light-filled creative hub nestled along the river in Napa's historic Tannery District at 101 S. Coombs St. From its very first day, the studio has been exactly what we envisioned: a downtown engine for artistic discovery, alive with classes, community art projects, and the kind of collaborative energy that only happens when people make things together. Our partnership with the Napa Valley Education Foundation (NVEF) has extended that energy even further, bringing Nimbus programming to the Discovery Campus and ensuring that world-class art education weaves through Napa Valley communities both north and south. And we are just getting started.

Just recently, in September 2026, we transformed a brand-new space into a fully dedicated public ceramics studio. We have twelve pottery wheels, two professional kilns, dedicated glazing stations, a slab roller, and extruder. But more than a beautifully equipped classroom, this will be a creative home — built intentionally for our community and shaped by the hands that will work in it.

We are also working to create the Nimbus Ceramics Artist Residency Program, bringing visiting and local ceramicists to Napa to create new work, lead demonstrations, and share world-class perspective directly with our students and neighbors.

"There is magical, grounding energy when you work with clay, and we can't wait to bring more of it to Napa. This studio is a true community build, and we want everyone — from first timers to master potters — to find their creative home here."

— ***JAMIE GRAFF**, NIMBUS ARTS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR*

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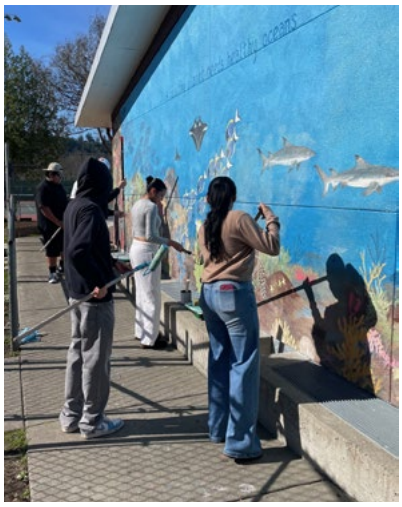
A Transformative Partnership: Palisades High School

For more than a decade, students from Palisades High School have traded textbooks for glass tiles, paint brushes, and clay — stepping out of the traditional classroom and into the professional studios of Nimbus Arts. This weekly immersion has given students a rare kind of focus and the space to express themselves across a wide array of mediums: ceramics and sculpture, painting and printmaking, mosaics, and even the science of scent-making and essential oils.

In February 2026, the most ambitious chapter of this partnership was unveiled on the exterior walls of Palisades classrooms: a large-scale mural celebrating the world's oceans and our shared role in protecting them. Inspired by a transformative visit to the California Academy of Sciences, students envisioned something "bigger" — a work connecting them to a part of the Earth far beyond the Napa Valley. Longtime Nimbus instructor and professional artist Anne Pentland helped students create together a single monumental masterpiece. This inspiring mural is a colorful reminder that the spirit of the Palisades students is as vast as the ocean itself.



Free Teen Open Studios

During each school year, **Nimbus Arts offers weekly FREE Teen Open Studios** — a place for teens in our community to learn, share, create and express themselves. This year is especially meaningful: with the opening of Nimbus Arts Studios in Napa, teens in a whole new community can experience creativity and inspiration every week.

Teens ages 12-19 are welcomed from 6pm to 8pm, every Tuesday evening in St. Helena and every Wednesday evening in Napa, to explore a rotating mix of art media and themes. The space, tools, and snacks are ready and waiting, and our professional teaching artists offer mentoring, guidance, and structure, but never pressure, to create. It's a regular, reliable place for teens to be creative, connect with each other, and feel like they belong.

NIMBASH 2026 — Jardin des Arts

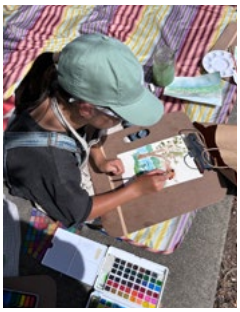
This year's NIMBASH celebration brought together hundreds of art-loving revelers for an evening unlike any other: an ever-evolving mix of hands-on art experiences, captivating live music, mesmerizing performance art, farm-to-table fare, exquisite Napa Valley wines, and fabulous art and auction lots to bid on. More than 450 guests gathered on the enchanting grounds of Raymond Vineyards & Winery and raised more than $800,000 to support local artists, vital community art programs, and the ongoing work of Nimbus Arts.

NIMBASH is more than a fundraiser; it is a celebration of the artists at the heart of our mission. Each year, a 50% commission is paid directly to contributing artists participating in the event. This year more than $145,000 flowed directly to talented artists through commissions, art activity instruction, and installation wages — a testament to our commitment to helping working artists thrive.

From the fund-a-need that fuels free programs like Free Teen Open Studios and other significant community projects, to the high-energy live auction and the joyful dance party that closes the night, every moment of NIMBASH is designed to inspire generosity and delight.

Save the date for NIMBASH 2027: May 22, 2027

Summer Camps



Nimbus Arts turned up the creative heat this summer, welcoming young artists ages 5–13 across our St. Helena and Napa campuses for an extraordinary season of making, imagining, and discovering. From sculpting ceramic lovables in Clay and Play to designing parade floats for the Napa 4th of July celebration, to cooking up art and food in A Taste of Art Camp, and sculpting river topographies in River Camp, our campers threw themselves into hands-on, multi-media art experiences. Fifteen camps. Four locations. Hundreds of unforgettable moments.

Behind every brushstroke and puppet and glazed piece of pottery was something larger: a child learning that their ideas have power, and that art is a way of understanding and inspiring their world. We are proud — and profoundly grateful — to be the place where creativity happens.

New Online Registration Is Here!

Thanks to a grant from the **Napa County Arts & Culture Advisory Committee**, we launched a completely new online class-registration platform in September 2026.

The new system makes it easier than ever to browse and sign up for classes on any device, whether you're on your computer or your phone. This upgrade is all about making your creative journey with us as seamless as possible.

Save the Date & Stay Connected

- **Sunday, November 1** – Dia de los Muertos Celebration
- **December 5 & 6** – Nimbus Arts Holiday Open House in St. Helena
- **Sunday, February 21** – Nimbus Oyster, Art, and Fiddle Fest
- **Saturday, May 22, 2027** – NIMBASH 2027

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