

INK NEWS

Volume 42 Issue 3, March 2021



- Humboldt Journalism Project
- HoWL: Hot Wheels League
- "Inspiring Girls 2021" at Brenda Tuxford Gallery
- Creative Spaces



What a bonanza the February Board meeting was! The Board adopted three new DreamMaker projects: Humboldt Journalism Project, HoWL (Hot Wheels League), and Only Skin Deep.

“The Humboldt Journalism Project supports investigative and explanatory public interest reporting within Humboldt County, with a primary focus on local governments, organizations, businesses and people that affect the economic lives of striving and underserved communities. We plan to give up to three annual prizes, a first-place prize of \$1,500 and two honorable mentions of \$500 each.” For more info or to get involved, contact Carrie Peyton-Dahlberg at cpeytondahlberg@gmail.com.

HoWL (Hot Wheels League) engages children in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math) activities racing Hot Wheels cars. “Most recently I have done this with the Boys and Girls Club of the Redwoods in Eureka; also with foster kids through CASA of Humboldt, and previously with Alder Grove Charter School as an on-campus weekly class for students. We use Mattel brand Hot Wheels cars and track sets for the HoWL events. Children are encouraged to bring their own cars to race and trade and we give new Hot Wheels cars as prizes at the end of each HoWL session. I do quite a bit of design and crafting with Hot Wheels and use the things I make as part of each HoWL session. I have also conducted four week training sessions instructing kids how to make their own Hot Wheels car crafts based on my own designs.” For more info or to get involved, contact Marc McGowan at hotwheelsleague@gmail.com.

“The mission of Only Skin Deep is to provide a platform for dancers/artists of color to speak on their experiences through their craft, allowing their community an opportunity to see, hear and learn from them. The project includes a revolving cast of dancers from all over Humboldt County throughout a series of performance “editions,” organized/produced by Rachel Noel Sanders aka Know EL.” There have been two editions of Only Skin Deep to date. Each has hosted 10-15 dancers in virtual performances, some broadcast live and others pre-recorded. For more info or to get involved, contact Rachel Noel Sanders at knowelcreates@gmail.com.

Most of our DreamMaker projects are struggling to survive the pandemic shut down. If you have a favorite DreamMaker (or two), please consider making a donation to them. You can find them all listed at <https://www.inkpeople.org/all-dreammakers>, with links to their pages and donation buttons. Thank you.



MARCH 2021

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Mission Statement

The Ink People changes lives by connecting our communities with resources for cultural development. We encourage people to exercise their humanity, build civic discourse, and engage their creative potential.



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CALL FOR EXHIBITION PROPOSALS

DO YOU HAVE A VISION FOR
THE ARTS IN OUR COMMUNITY?

The Ink People Center for the Arts
announces a call for virtual exhibition
proposals at the Brenda Tuxford
Gallery. We are seeking curated
proposals by exhibition organizers
addressing topical issues and themes.
Exhibitions will take place in 2021.

Submit a one-page proposal explaining the
concept for your exhibition and up to five
JPEG image files to www.inkpeople.org.

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: MARCH 15, 2021



Introducing the Humboldt Journalism Project

The Humboldt Journalism Project, one of the Ink People's newest DreamMaker projects, supports investigative and explanatory public interest reporting within Humboldt County with a primary focus on local governments, organizations, businesses and people that affect the economic lives of striving and underserved communities. Starting in 2022, the group will be awarding reporting grants and up to three annual prizes. Ink News sat down with the project coordinator, retired award-winning journalist Carrie Peyton-Dahlberg, to learn more.

"We're forging a connection between journalism and the nonprofit sector, and we want to support journalists who want to do really substantive work about Humboldt. We hope to support writing, but also radio and TV," Peyton-Dahlberg said.

"If there's a story that's important for Humboldt that will take some time and will matter, and the publication does not have the budget to assign someone to that story or pay for the amount of time it would take an experienced reporter to report that story, we can facilitate that. The journalist can come to the Humboldt

Journalism Project and say, 'I have this idea; here's some of my other work, here's the editor ready to take it, as long as it meets their publication standards. Will you please give me a reporting grant?'

"People have to get paid to make it possible for them to do quality, hard-hitting journalism. We have people on staff at local outlets who are already doing this, but we could use more." Conventional funding approaches, Peyton-Dahlberg says, "can work for a big national magazine. But to work in our region, to bring state or national level talent consistently to a region this small, we have to up our game and what we're paying. So we're looking at pay rates that would be competitive with anything else that might occupy a serious professional's time, because that's how we're going to get the good stuff."

While the Journalism Project will be supporting all kinds of content, projects that receive support "need to be either investigative or explanatory - we're not interested in supporting breaking news. Breaking news generates a lot of reader attention, clicks, whatever, but that's not going to be us. Our area

Introducing...

HOWL: HOT WHEELS LEAGUE

...a DreamMaker Project

HoWL (Hot Wheels League) is a new Ink People DreamMaker Project that engages children in STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, & Math) activities through racing Hot Wheels model cars.

“We use Mattel brand Hot Wheels cars and track sets for the HoWL events. Children are encouraged to bring their own cars to race and trade, and we give new Hot Wheels cars as prizes at the end of each HoWL session,” said league founder Mark McGowan. “I do quite a bit of design and crafting with Hot Wheels and use the things I make as part of each HoWL session. I have also conducted 4-week training sessions instructing kids how to make their own Hot Wheels car crafts based on my own designs.”

McGowan, who works at Humboldt Area Foundation as a project manager when he’s not organizing HoWL events, has operated the league with foster kids through CASA of Humboldt and most recently, pre-pandemic,

through the Boys and Girls Club of the Redwoods in Eureka, working primarily with kids ages 6-12. It all started back in 2014, he explained, “when my son Julian was enrolled at Alder Grove Charter School and we were collecting cars together, father and son, just for fun. We thought, hey, maybe other kids in school might like to trade cars. We took the idea to the school to get permission, to see if maybe we could meet on campus once a week or something. It kind of exploded.”

Over time, McGowan has worked with League participants to create about a dozen different kinds of Hot Wheels-related events. For the 10-Minute Track Building Challenge, “we took all these straight tracks and loops and curves and connectors and clamps and put them together to build racetracks. Three-person teams would take 10 minutes to conceive, design, build, and then figure out how other teams would earn one, two or three points racing their course. I was continuously blown away by how creative these kids could be, and how fast they could put



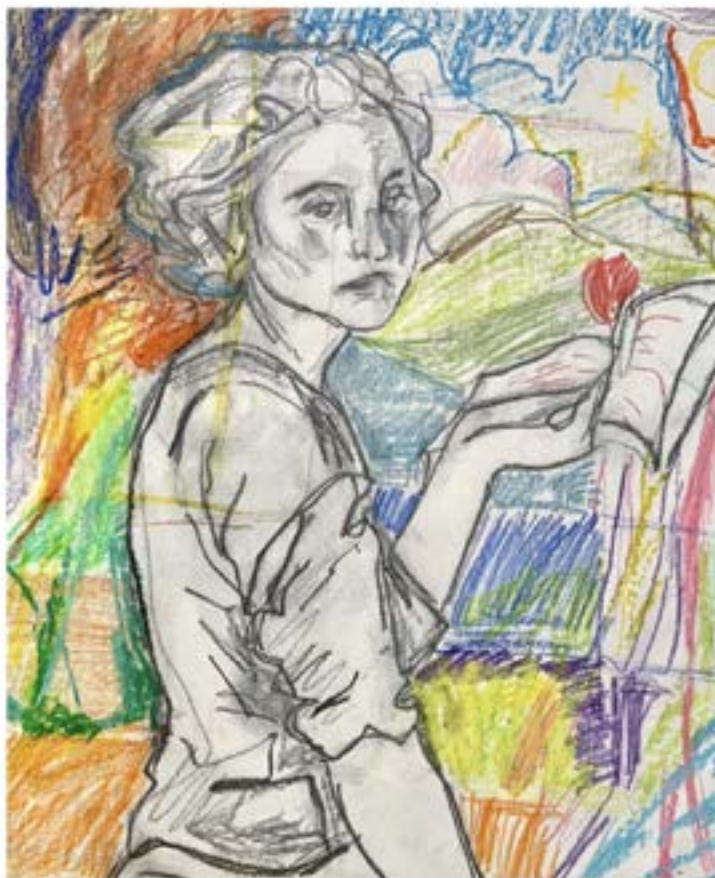
these tracks together.

“An event I came to love was called The Fast and the Factual. I would say, ‘Take one of your favorite cars and tell us about it, give us some specifications and details.’ We would weigh the cars on kitchen scales and use calipers to measure their height. Kids would describe their cars in a couple of different ways and then tell us stories about them. What do you imagine this car would do? Who might drive it? Where would it go? Participants would gain points either by presenting, or by paying attention and listening to the story. And the kids seem to have a blast with this. The stories get a little crazy... the humor can get a little crude,” he allows, laughing. “But it’s a lot of fun, and it

gives them a chance to build social skills.”

Some of McGowan’s favorite HoWL events are the ones that go beyond STEM to teach kids about conflict resolution and group dynamics. “We started something called Fair Trading. We had to. Because what would happen is, kids get very excited. They grab their bucket full of Hot Wheels and dump that bucket on the floor, along with 11 other kids. You can picture all these cars. Everyone’s excited, they want to trade, and kids are running around and some of them will just say ‘Oh, I want that car.’ So we created this event where, in order to do a fair trade, you would have to first select the cars you want to get and then present what you were willing to trade. The owner of those cars

Inspiring Girls



An open, virtual art exhibition celebrating the inspiring women in our lives in honor of International Women's Day. This show benefits North Star Quest Camp, a DreamMaker Project of the Ink People Center for the Arts

March 5-31, 2021

www.inkpeople.org/inspiring-girls

Artwork by Ren Wood, "End of Semester Feels", 2021

would put the cars down in front of you. And then each one of you, in turn, would look at each other and say, 'Fair Trade,' without touching the cars. Then, and only then, could you pick up your new car. So it was about learning here how to trade fairly, instead of just grabbing."

The League implemented a special track, the Fight Fixer, to resolve more involved differences of opinion. "It wasn't very often we had to use it. But when that did happen, it dawned on me: that's a thing that might translate into the real world. Maybe when you take the Fight Fixer toy out of the equation, you can see people who are in conflict and maybe as a third party, you can come up and say 'Hey, why don't we walk away for a second, why don't we talk about this in five minutes?' I see this as an opportunity to help kids self-manage, and even to teach them to look out and see if maybe they can be helpful in a conflict situation, helping one another manage disagreement in a productive way."

A new HoWL season is anticipated for 2021, once pandemic restrictions on social gatherings have eased.

For more information or to get involved, contact Marc McGowan at hotwheelsleague@gmail.com.

is going to be digging into how things work.

"Our annual award does have a very specific focus. We're calling it the 40th Award, because it's going to be an award for substantive journalism about issues that affect people within the lower 40% of the income tiers. This means reporting that touches the lives of people who have to pay attention to how much money they've got every month. We want to support reporting that examines the abuse of power.

Peyton-Dahlberg brings decades of journalism experience to her new role of project coordinator. "I was editor of the North Coast Journal for a couple of years; I was at the Sacramento Bee for 23 years. I got a late master's degree back East, so I have a network there too. I spent about half my career reporting and the other half editing. I've worked with freelancers; I've done acquisitions; I've pitched stories. I know where to put feelers out. There's tons of eager people who'd like to do the work, and I think there's tons of editors who would love to have this kind of content.

"We really are committed to making Humboldt better and bolstering local democracy."

The deadline for the first annual 40th Award will be January 31 of 2022. For more info or to get involved, contact Carrie Peyton-Dahlberg at journalism@inkpeople.org. You can donate to the Humboldt Journalism Project at www.inkpeople.org.



Workshops & Classes

ARISING HOLISTIC CENTER

Yoga videos and meditations. YouTube: Arising Holistic Center. Facebook: Arising

ENGLISH EXPRESS

English Language Classes for Adults / Clases de Inglés para adultos. ONLINE: Tuesdays and Thursdays 7-8 pm, Thursdays 11:00 am 12 pm. Classes are FREE. Join anytime. For more information/Para más información: englishexpresshumboldt.org. Facebook: English Express. (707) 443-5021

HUMBOLDT UKULELE GROUP

Learn to play in a relaxed group setting. Facebook: Humboldt Ukulele Group s

KARUK LANGUAGE CLASSES: Thursdays 5:15 - 6:15 pm ONLINE. Facebook: Karuk Language Project

HUMBOLDT SINGS

Come sing in a relaxed, non-performative group setting—no experience necessary. Facebook:

[Humboldt SINGS](https://www.facebook.com/humboldtSINGS@gmail.com)
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Photo credits and captions: Cover: *Forgotten Worlds* by Rhianna Williams, inkjet print, 2020. See Williams' photographs now through March 31 in the virtual exhibition "Inspiring Girls 2021" at www.inkpeople.org. Photo credit Rhianna Williams. Page 3: *Hot Wheels at the starting line* of a recent HoWL event. Photo credit Marc McGowan. Page 7: *a HoWL track awaits league racers*. Photo credit Marc McGowan. Page 10: *Radioactive Love Potion* by ICMANEKINEKO, digital collage, 2019. On view now through March 31 in the virtual exhibition "Inspiring Girls 2021" at www.inkpeople.org. Photo credit ICMANEKINEKO. Page 11: Photo submitted by Margaret Kellermann.

Introducing a new feature: **CREATIVE SPACE**

This month's creative space belongs to Humboldt writer Margaret Kellermann.

"I found a Mexican santo, a hand-carved saint, in a Santa Rosa thrift shop for \$20."

"I filled in the old multipaned pub window, each pane holding a different color of found objects from the sea."

"My great-great grandfather John Needles, a well-known Baltimore cabinetmaker and Quaker abolitionist, made the 19th-century tiger-maple octagonal table."



"My favorite place to practice reading aloud from my novel 'Annie California' in preparation for audiobook recording is a 1940s bamboo chair."

"A shrine where I often have a candle burning when I'm writing, reading, praying or working on my art."

Want to share a photo of your creative space? Send a jpeg image file of at least 1 mb and a short description to gabrielle@inkpeople.org.

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