

# INK NEWS

Volume 42 Issue 10, October 2021



• Ink Spawn

• Libby Maynard: “It’s Been Well Worth It”

• Six Questions for Benjamin Funke of REBOUND

Ink People Center for the Arts • 627 3rd St, Eureka, CA 95501 • (707) 442-8413  
[www.inkpeople.org](http://www.inkpeople.org)



# INK SPAWN

*A note from Executive Director Libby Maynard*

**T**wo wonderful projects were added to the DreamMaker family at the September board meeting: Soul Garden and Ile Aiye Wellness Village.

“The mission of Soul Garden is to create a more beautiful, healed, and abundant world, beginning here in Humboldt County. Participants will be many and diverse. Currently we have architects, master planners, ontological designers, landscapers, artists, contractors, Humboldt State, the healing arts community, and more, aware and engaged in the vision.” To find out more or to get involved, contact Broderick Brown at [broderick.brown@gmail.com](mailto:broderick.brown@gmail.com).

“Ile Aiye Wellness Village’s mission is to co-create an Afrocentric Ecovillage that will regenerate the land and uplift the Black community. This will be a space where events geared towards healing racial trauma through arts and healing arts can happen in a sustainable way that empowers the local Wiyot tribe, with respect for the land. It will be created for Black community members and co-conspirators (allies) who are interested in healing racial trauma in our area and strengthening our Black community. Anyone who shares this vision is welcome.” To find out more or to get involved, contact Aundrea Stuckey at [y.a.w.s.inc@gmail.com](mailto:y.a.w.s.inc@gmail.com).

Big thanks to everyone who has thus far responded so generously to our fundraising appeal to fix up our new place! It’s not too late to give, if you haven’t already. Big things are happening! Jeff Langdon has been carefully removing the old paneling in the gallery rooms, per the landlords’ instruction. Fhyre Phoenix has been removing the wall paper. Jay Tilghman’s father, John Tilghman, came down from Portland to assist, and now we have a pocket door between the two gallery rooms. The Hartshorns and other weavers have been making the mezzanine “ballroom” into a beautiful weaving studio. Cory Goldman and Jay Tilghman, the MARZ Mentors, have been moving stuff! They are the Eveready Bunnies of moving, and they are amazing. The landlords, John Winzler and Reed Kelly, have been successfully securing workmen to do the repairs they promised. If you’ve tried, you know how hard it is to get people to commit. Meanwhile, Monica Topping is coordinating it all! Whew! And we’ve just begun. Thank You All!

The Board Executive Committee has received a nice batch of applications from people who want to be the next Executive Director. The process is right on schedule for me to retire at the end of the year.



# OCTOBER 2021

## FEATURES

---



---

2: Ink Spawn

5: “It’s Been Well Worth It”

in retrospect with Executive Director and  
co-founder Libby Maynard

6: Six questions

for Benjamin Funke of REBOUND

11: Photo credits and captions

### 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.



# THE GESTATION PROJECT

Oct. 11 - Nov. 30 2021

## A VIRTUAL EXHIBITION

about childrearing and the perils of modern life.



## BRENDA TUXFORD GALLERY

[www.inkpeople.org/tuxfordgallery](http://www.inkpeople.org/tuxfordgallery)  
(707) 442-8413



The Gestation Project is made possible by a 2020 FAR grant, administered by The Ink People Center for the Arts.



*Pregnant Ladies Versus Tigers, Taylor Snowberger  
Family Platter, Eva Nebenzahl*





---

## *“It’s Been Well Worth It”*

In retrospect with Ink People Executive Director and co-founder

# Libby Maynard

*It would be hard to overestimate the importance of the role Executive Director and co-founder Libby Maynard has played in the development of Ink People Center for the Arts. The Washington, D.C., native and “runaway” philosophy major from Wellesley who “never learned to type” came west in 1967, enrolled as a sophomore at Humboldt State University, and never left the area. She and her friend Bren-*

*da Tuxford were a pair of printmakers with a vision for art as the instrument of progressive social change when they founded the Ink People in 1979. Maynard has directed the organization since, assuming a solo leadership role after Tuxford’s death in 2004. Perhaps the most significant of the programming achievements that have taken place under her leadership: the 1985 founding of*

*Continued on p. 7.*



## Six Questions for Benjamin Funke of

# ***REBOUND***

---



---

**B**enjamin Funke, the recipient of a 2020 Funds for Artists' Resilience (FAR) grant, is an artist, educator, and tenured staff member at Humboldt State University's art department. He moved to Northern California in 2014 to teach drawing and sculpture at College of the Redwoods after receiving a MFA at the University of Notre Dame. He has volunteered with creative nonprofits including the Redwood Art Association and Chicago-based Artists Co-op Residency and Exhibitions (ACRE). *Ink News* caught up with Funke to ask him seven questions.

• ***Tell me about the new project you founded, **REBOUND**, which recently became a DreamMaker Project.***

“REBOUND is a community-based arts and cultural organization. We use good design with the goal of enhancing community life. This project's aim is to transform neglected basketball courts into colorful works of public art, bringing together the worlds of sports and art by painting large-format murals on the court surface. These public courts will become safe, visually appealing places that can inspire peo-

ple with community pride. Public spaces meet multiple communities' needs. Creation of these murals will be a step towards improving public life and generating a spirit of civic belonging for members of the diverse groups who use this court. The functional side of this project is about improving the surface and making it more playable; the art side exists to create energy and excitement. This package of improvements will cause parks to become more vibrant centers of community interaction, the glue that brings everyone together."

**• Why did you found an organization around the intersection of art and sports?**

"I've been a sports fan my entire life, and REBOUND was a project I had been wanting to execute for a long time. My personal artwork has drawn inspiration from professional sports. My most recent series of ink drawings were of basketball hoops that I had photographed over the years. In that project I used source images of courts that were in serious disrepair. Lots of uninspiring colors (tans, mauve, taupe, gray). I have a penchant for extremely loud colors and bold design. I loved the idea of taking our local courts, many of which are drab or in need of a little TLC, and hitting them with some good design and bright colors."

**• REBOUND just completed a mural titled "Mint" at Shay Park in Arcata. How did the inspiration for that artwork come about?**

"The design was completed in-house. I was asking for input from my REBOUND teammates — Trent Franks, Lindsay Kessner, and Jeremy Hara — on a regular basis. During one of my Zoom meetings with the Parks and Recreation Committee, concern was voiced that the court designs might be too busy, confusing or distracting for the players. I applied that feedback into this design, limiting the amount of abstraction to the lane, and keeping the color palette as electrifying as possible. Wanting to create visual movement on a 2-D surface, I used repetition, asymmetry and variation to mimic the look of two consecutive film stills side-by-side."

*Continued on p. 10.*

## **"It's Been Well Worth It"** *cont. from p. 5*

---

*the DreamMaker Program, an arts and culture incubator facilitating self-directed projects created by people with a dream of making our community better through art and cultural engagement. Today, this program provides administrative, public relations and logistical support to more than 100 arts and culture initiatives.*

*In addition to her work leading the Ink People, Libby serves on the boards of directors of Access Humboldt, Alliance for California Traditional Arts, Humboldt County Visitors Bureau, DellArte, and Humboldt County Workforce Development Board. She has served as staff to the City of Eureka's Art & Culture Commission and has been on Eureka Main Street's Public Arts Committee since 2005. She received the Selina Roberts Ottum Award for Arts Leadership from Americans for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts in 2011, and the Humboldt Arts Council's Outstanding Contribution to the Arts Award in 2018. We caught up with Libby as she was planning her impending transition to an emeritus role at the end of this year. The Executive Director shared her thoughts about the Ink People's evolution and its potential.*

**Q: What made you want to start a nonprofit arts organization in 1979?**

"Brenda (Tuxford) and I were both graduate students (at Humboldt State University). I was the lab tech in the etching room. We met in the printmaking lab. I had come back to school after six years of not being able to do any etching, because I didn't have a press. And Brenda was just realizing that when she graduated, she wouldn't have access to a print studio either. After winter break, Brenda came in waving a bunch of papers and said, "Let's start an arts organization and get lots of grants!" We wanted an etching studio. And you know, there's nothing like a little personal agenda to move a larger social movement forward. We decided to do it, and that's when we gathered some other printmakers and a lawyer who was a friend of Brenda's. There were about seven of us at the beginning."

*Continued on p. 8.*

**Q: What has made the Ink People's longevity possible?**

"It's been the consistency, in part. There have been times when things happened that made it very difficult to maintain that consistency. Like, for instance, the time when the California Arts Council was defunded by the Legislature by 97%. We had to let all the staff go, and I was the only one running the Ink People for a while. But I think our longevity has had more to do with our passion for community service and our values. Brenda and I started out with these principles 40 years ago. We wanted to be a peer support group for artists. We wanted to educate the community about the value of the arts. And we wanted to create jobs for artists in the arts. Over time, that goal has evolved into creating economic vitality for the community through the arts. But those priorities are what we started with, and they remain our guide today."

**Q: What has been key to your success?**

"Brenda and I had a really good partnership. We had similar beliefs. While we both had liberal leanings, we held some very different viewpoints. But we could discuss them, not fight about them. That ability seems to have been lost in the body politic these days.

We've been lucky that the Ink People has had really good boards over the years, with board members who have understood and committed to our mission. Another part of our success has come from embracing the unconventional, and not following the textbooks. We have always been scrappy! In the beginning, it was basically just Brenda and I. I didn't start getting paid until, like, 1992, and then I was getting \$400 a month. But I never served on the board, because I wanted to get paid."

**Q: What challenges does the Ink People face in the future?**

"I try not to focus so much on the money. But a non-profit — really, any endeavor — always comes down to money. The DreamMaker program has kept us in business all these years, because it's a steady income. We get some grants, and we are actively fundraising because our new building, the Ink People's new headquarters at

627 3rd Street in Eureka, is going to need so much work. In the future, we hope to have secured a permanent home for the Ink People. But we're probably a few years away from that."

**Q: Of which achievements are you proud-est?**

"The DreamMaker program and MARZ, our free creative arts program for local youth. They both filled real community needs, because we listened to the needs of the community in designing them. The DreamMaker Program responds to people's need to engage in the arts, and people have wonderful ideas. They have a great sense of what their community or their neighborhood really wants and needs at a given moment in time. Many DreamMaker projects have stayed with us for years. The ones that have gone on to become independent nonprofits have become strong local institutions that remain our partners."

**Q: Has your management style changed over the years?**

"In the 1980s, when I was getting into administration, I was reading about and studying different management styles. I found that I couldn't totally agree with any of the ones in the books. And then I read this interview in one of the very early issues of *Fast Company* magazine, which I was reading because it was a moment in time when businesses were taking lessons from the nonprofit community. It was with this guy named Dee Hock, who invented the VISA system. His management style was called chaordic management. It was all about accepting chaos, and periodically finding a point of order within the chaos. When corporations were being really, really awful, he made the case for being humanitarian. Foster people if you can, help them to grow, to do the best job possible."

**Q: What advice do you have for the next Executive Director?**

"I hope that it will be someone who listens, and who is open to difference. I think those are the two most important things. You need to be people-centered, be really thoughtful and compassionate, but also

*Continued on p. 10.*



# OPPORTUNITIES

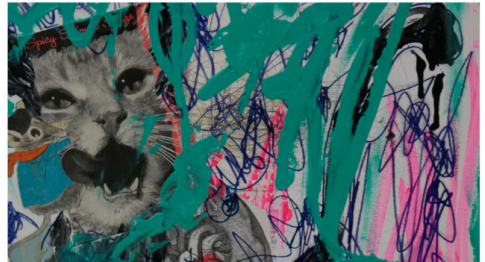


In partnership with KEET-TV, Ink People Center for the Arts, Humboldt County Library, and Word Humboldt are soliciting artworks and poems that draw inspiration from one of Muhammad Ali's six core principles:

- Confidence
- Conviction
- Dedication
  - Giving
- Respect
- Spirituality

Youth and adult submissions will be accepted digitally through Nov. 19. Learn more about this opportunity at [www.inkpeople.org/tuxfordgallery](http://www.inkpeople.org/tuxfordgallery)

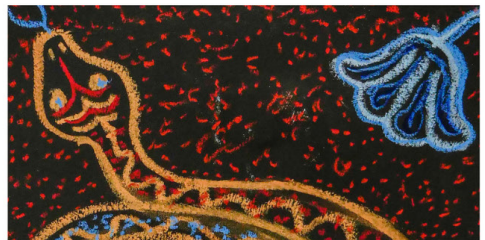
Photo credit ZUMA Press, Inc./Alamy Live News.



## - 2021 - ARTISTS' CHALLENGE CALL TO ARTISTS

Create 15 original works of art  
during the month of November.

REGISTER BEFORE NOV. 1ST  
[at inkpeople.org](http://at.inkpeople.org)



ART BY  
TESS YINGER | SONI EPERSON  
LYDIA MORRIS | LIBBY MAYNARD

understand the realities of running an organization. It’s important to resist the instinct to be territorial. Brenda and I would start programs, and then if somebody else in the community would start doing something similar — maybe doing a better job — we would give them the program. There’s always more to do. There’s no reason to hog things or build an empire. Because at some point, that makes you become dysfunctional. I think territorialism actually comes down to fear of the other. And I’ve been saying for years: if there was one thing I could change in our genetic structure, it would be that innate fear of the other. I think there’s something built-in there; it’s not just society.”

**Q: What are your plans for the year ahead?**

“I’m going to do some art, which I haven’t had much of a chance to do in the recent past. And I’ll do some consulting. That should keep me plenty busy. I want the new Executive Director to have enough space to develop the organization on their own and change it — which they inevitably will, and that’s OK. Ink People has been a change organization the whole time. When organizations stop changing, they stagnate. And I’m easily bored, so I’ve always tried to keep things changing and happening.

Change is a funny thing. A lot of people don’t like it, but I like it. It keeps you alive. When you stop changing, you’re dead, right? So I don’t want the new director to feel like I’m looking over their shoulder. I am always happy to consult, and hopefully the Board will allow me to run a few special projects.”

**Q: How would you like to be remembered?**

“As a nice person.”

**Q: Looking back over your career, would you have done anything differently?**

“I’m pretty happy with who I am. If it took all those ups and downs, and all those hardships and victories to get to the place where I am now, and the place where the Ink People is today — it’s been well worth it.”



**• How were members of the community involved?**

“In fall of 2020, I applied for and was awarded a grant from FAR (Funds for Artists’ Resilience). The FAR grant really made the start of this project possible. It encouraged me to take the next step and become a DreamMaker with the Ink People Center for the Arts. Becoming a DreamMaker project established us as a 501(c)(3) and allowed us access to liability insurance for events. Once my proposal had been funded, the planning phase involved several months of Zoom calls with employees at the City of Arcata. In midsummer, once the design had been approved, we coordinated our calendars to begin prepping and painting. I was honored to have so many talented artists working alongside me at the park, all of us coming together for this common cause. It was a long process, but it was great working with all of the folks at the City. The project has been met with a lot of enthusiasm.”

**• What’s next for REBOUND?**

“There are a lot of irons in the fire at the moment. REBOUND isn’t exclusively about basketball. While rebounding is a very important aspect of the game of basketball — the rebounding team gains possession of the ball and goes on offense. You could also say it applies more broadly in life. So while we are looking into projects at other basketball courts around the county, we are also eyeballing slivers of walls, skateparks and baseball stadiums. Maybe a 2-on-2 basketball tourney?”

**• What does REBOUND hope to accomplish in the long term?**

“REBOUND is about initiating projects that use the power of art and design to improve our community life. In future that can take the form of making the community more beautiful, enhancing educational opportunities, creating incubator spaces, and working towards equity for artists and the community.”

**Follow REBOUND on social media:**

**Instagram: @R\_E\_B\_O\_U\_N\_D\_D\_O\_T\_N\_E\_T**

**Website: [www.R-E-B-O-U-N-D.net](http://www.R-E-B-O-U-N-D.net)**



### ARISING HOLISTIC CENTER

Yoga videos and meditations. YouTube: Arising Community. Facebook: Arising

### ENGLISH EXPRESS

English Language Classes for Adults / Clases de Inglés para adultos.

ONLINE: Tuesdays and Thursdays 7-8 p.m., Saturdays 11:00 a.m.-12 p.m. 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

### KARUK LANGUAGE

CLASSES: Thursdays

5:15-6:15 p.m. ONLINE.

Facebook: Karuk Language Project

### HUMBOLDT SINGS

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

Facebook: Humboldt

SINGS.

HumboldtSINGS@gmail.com



---

**CREDITS & CAPTIONS:** Cover: Saul Pedroza and Benjamin Funke of REBOUND paint a mural on the basketball court key in Arcata's Shay Park, October 2021. P. 3: The hoop shadows the freshly painted REBOUND mural at Shay Park. 5: Libby Maynard in her office at the Ink People Center for the Arts, October 2021. P. 6: Ryan Hash and Sheala Dunlap of REBOUND at work in Shay Park, October 2021. P. 11: "Orange Skies," by Patrick Garcia, is on view in the Gestation Project, a virtual art exhibition at Brenda Tuxford Gallery about childbearing and the perils of modern life. Open now through Oct. 31: [www.inkpeople.org/nowshowing](http://www.inkpeople.org/nowshowing). All photos credit Ink People Center for the Arts.



**New Address!**

**The Ink People**  
**627 3rd Street**  
**Eureka, CA 95501**

# INK NEWS

is published monthly by  
Ink People Center for the Arts

Executive Director

Libby Maynard

Administrative Director

Monica Topping

Administrative Assistant

Princess King-Burke

Marketing & Resource  
Development Director

Gabrielle Gopinath

Alternative Galleries

Angie Valetutto

Technology Director

Karen Asbury

MARZ Project Mentors

Cory Goldman

J. R. Tilghman

*Ink News* Editor

Gabrielle Gopinath

California Arts Council  
Administrators of  
Color Fellow

Nanette Kelley

