

# INK NEWS

Volume 41 Issue 10, October 2020

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- MARZ Media Lab: now wired for distanced learning
- Keeping English Express alive



**W**e're getting good at Zoom meetings. At the end of August, we held a four-hour strategic planning meeting that never got boring, and everyone seemed to feel like it was painless. Special thanks to former longtime board member Ted Loring, who led the "retreat." We are in the process of editing the final version, and will share it with you next month.

In the meantime, at the regular September board meeting, we adopted a new DreamMaker project called Obidah Institute of Arts.

"There are gaps in our education system about ancient African civilizations, and African American youth are limited in what they learn about their heritage," Olivia Dunn, the program's founder, told me. "There are sophisticated systems that our African ancestors established prior to slavery. Black communities, as well as all communities, need to hear these untold stories. I am proposing teaching traditional black art forms to tell the story of pre-slave trade Africa up until the modern day. It will reintroduce elements of tribal culture into our own culture, and celebrate contemporary forms that have derived from these elements, such as jazz and hip-hop. Other art forms such as basket weaving, storytelling and African dance will help students connect to a part of themselves that they may never have had access to." If you would like to learn more or get involved, please contact Dunn at [oliviaodunn@gmail.com](mailto:oliviaodunn@gmail.com).

We are fundraising for our Covid and racial equity focused program, Funds for Artists' Resilience (FAR), through A Community Thrives.

Our profile: <https://acomunitythrive.mightycause.com/organization/Ink-People>  
The donation page for FAR: <https://acomunitythrive.mightycause.com/story/M09ppf>

This program funds public art projects in Humboldt, Del Norte, and Trinity counties. You can designate whether you want your donation to go to a specific area. You can find out more about FAR at <https://www.inkpeople.org/far>.

Our popular annual exhibition of mask art, Maskibition, is coming in November instead of October this year. The annual Artists' Challenge will be taking place right on time, with safety measures in full force. Make your viewing appointments early! \$





# OCTOBER 2020

## FEATURES



*Above: Caleb Ives working with animation in the MARZ Project video lab.*

*Cover: Reef Morgan and MARZ Project audio mentor Cory Goldman take advantage of a sunny afternoon for a socially distanced jam session at Ink People Center for the Arts.*

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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.



# MARZ PROJECT MEDIA LAB

## NOW WIRED FOR DISTANCED LEARNING

The mentors at the MARZ Project media lab will be purchasing tablets, laptops, Wi-Fi hotspots and audiovisual software suites so students can continue to engage and create while staying safe, thanks to a recently announced \$10,000 grant from Humboldt Health Foundation.

“Our big challenge as an organization has been to figure out how to create the kinds of opportunities and experiences we normally do in-person, in an online space,” MARZ audio mentor Cory Goldberg explained. This funding will go a long way toward making that possible.

“COVID-19 has really been difficult for musicians in general, due to the social nature of music and the real-time auditory experience, neither of which are suitably replaced by online interaction,” Goldberg said. “Try-

ing to meet my students online has been challenging, largely because a lot of them come to MARZ specifically to use tools they don’t have access to otherwise. For that reason, I’m excited about the HHF grant. It’s going to provide us with hardware that we can loan out to students, making it more feasible to work together remotely. I’m very much looking forward to hearing what people create with the new tools!”

The MARZ Project, a core program of the Ink People Center for the Arts, has offered free instruction, mentorship and support focused on the needs and interests of local youth since 1997. Its mission is to provide people ages 12 to 26 with tools to express themselves through graphic design, audio and video production.

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**2020**

**THE YEAR OF  
THE MASK**

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**OPENING THE FIRST SATURDAY OF NOVEMBER**

**NOV. 7-30**

ENTRY FEE:

**\$20 NON INK PEOPLE MEMBERS**

**\$5 INK PEOPLE MEMBERS**

**TUESDAY-THURSDAY, NOV. 3-5**

**FROM NOON - 5PM**

**(OR EARLIER BY APPOINTMENT)**

OUR NEW  
FAMILIARITY

# **MASKIBITION**

**525 7TH ST, EUREKA, CA - BRENDA TUXFORD GALLERY**

The Ink People Center for the Arts

# WHAT IS THE MARZ PROJECT?

**MARZ = Media & Arts Resource Zone**

The MARZ Project provides youth ages 12-26 with the tools to help them express themselves creatively in visual art, audio and video production. All MARZ students have access to a full array of equipment, software, and training to support artistic expression. All services of the MARZ Project are free - the only limitation is your imagination.



## TUES-FRI NOON-5:00PM

Socially Distanced or  
Remote Appointments Available

[marzproject@inkpeople.org](mailto:marzproject@inkpeople.org) | (707) 442-8413



- VIDEO PRODUCTION
- INSTRUMENT LESSONS
- RECORDING STUDIO
- BEAT MAKING
- DIGITAL ART
- 3D DESIGN/ANIMATION
- PHOTOGRAPHY
- AND MUCH MORE...



# Keeping English Express Alive



“How it all got started was, I saw it in a dream,” Mary Ann Hytken recalled. “In the dream, I was teaching English to a group of adults and we were having such a good time, talking and laughing. I woke up and said to myself: I need to find a place like that. A place that feels correct for me to teach.”

Hytken was describing the origins of English Express, the DreamMaker program she created to provide free language instruction for adults learning English as a second language. When it started in 2016, the program met at the Jefferson Community Center. Soon Hytken was teaching at satellite sites in Fortuna and southern Humboldt as well. Then the COVID-19 epidemic hit.

This fall, instead of doing what she would normally be doing at the outset of a school

year —teaching English classes, scheduling guest speakers and organizing field trips — Hytken is spearheading a fundraising campaign called “Keep English Express Alive.” Proceeds will pay for laptops, portable hotspots and other equipment that can help ESL (English as a second language) students continue their classes from home.

Going on hiatus was never an option. Hytken’s students had asked her to carry on; plus, she said, “I love teaching. It’s my heart song, the one thing I really love in life.” Hytken pursued her calling in Humboldt for more than two decades before founding English Express, working as a public schoolteacher and as associate faculty at a

*Mary Ann Hytken (center) with English Express students Agustín Cruz and Elvira Rojas. Photo credit Mary Ann Hytken.*



local community college. But it proved difficult to create the kind of holistic class she dreamed of within local educational systems.

“I wanted to offer more to my students than was possible in the community college system, or in the public schools. In addition to language instruction, I wanted to offer field trips. I wanted to invite guest speakers, so students could pose questions to experts right here in the classroom. I wanted my class to be a safe space so my students wouldn’t have to navigate the, quote unquote, system — which can be challenging enough, even without a language barrier. Basically, I wanted a program that would address the whole person.”

Perception of this need motivated Hytken to create English Express one summer after other local ESL classes had been abruptly cancelled.

“Several students said, ‘Maestra, please keep teaching.’ So I decided I would find a way to do

that. I had no money, and knew nothing about running a nonprofit, but I had confidence. It was total sink or swim, a moment-by-moment learning curve.”

In the past four years she has taught English to students from 30 different nationalities. In addition to year-round language classes, English Express now offers a twice-yearly class that prepares students for the United States citizenship exam. Extracurricular events have included field trips to the Redwood Coast Music Festival, a tour of the Carson Mansion, and a trip around Humboldt Bay on the Madaket.

Financial challenges have been a constant. Electrical outages scheduled by PG&E knocked out a planned fundraiser in fall 2019. The following spring, quarantine forced other cancellations and led some longtime funders to place a moratorium

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*English Express students pose for a group photo after a tour of Humboldt Bay on the Madaket. Photo credit Mary Ann Hytken.*





*Continued from p. 4.*

Before social distancing requirements prevented MARZ mentors from meeting with participants on a drop-in basis, the program had been engaging between 75 and 100 participants each year and recording between 300-350 annual visits. Those numbers were significantly impacted by the COVID-19 crisis.

Now program participants will be able to check out laptop computers and tablets equipped with Wi-Fi hotspots and audiovisual software suites for three-month renewable loan periods. This will make it possible for MARZ program mentors to work intensively with a significant number of students, even if social distancing requirements continue to inhibit their ability to offer drop-in mentoring services.

Video mentor Jay Tilghman said the COVID-19 quarantine has affected his interactions with students significantly over the last few months. “It’s been tough — MARZ was very much a space for collaboration. On a productive day, you’d see students helping other students, discussing group projects, and making new friends. Though I’ve been able to make the most out of my time with my more dedicated students, I still miss that collaborative atmosphere immensely.”

However, Tilghman added, seeing his students succeed on Zoom can be just as rewarding. “When they see progress, or when it all comes together, there’s that ‘I made this!’ moment. I think that’s the most rewarding part of teaching: it’s such a visual medium.” §

*Continued from p. 8.*

on grants. Many English Express students, Hytken noted, are vulnerable to COVID-19 because of age, pre-existing health conditions, multi-generation living situations and/or service-industry jobs that offer no work-from-home options. As a result, she said, “we were the first school in Humboldt to close.

“It took us from April to May to become Zoom-ready. It was blood, sweat, and a lot of tears. The biggest challenge has been finding interpreters to help people get online. Some grants are restricted to hardware and technology, but that’s not all we need. We need to pay someone bilingual to go into people’s homes and hook it all up and explain how to access Zoom. These are students who are 50 and older, who are in many cases just not familiar with the technology. So our fundraiser is for program costs — to keep the program free for everybody, so I can keep offering classes online.”

Hytken remains committed to a student-centered approach. “This whole program is built on following students’ lead. For instance, I don’t give homework or tests. My students are tested enough in their daily lives; they don’t need more tests. Learning a language is a long-term commitment. It takes about seven

years to get fluent, and that’s if you’re surrounded by native speakers. It can take a lot longer if you don’t have the time, if you have a heavy workload and a lot of stress, which is true of many of my students.

“I’ve never had a buffer, and at times I’ve had to dip into my own money to keep this going,” Hytken said. “So nothing is guaranteed. But students show up, and they keep giving me the most amazing testimonies. I just take things one day at a time. That’s been the magic of English Express: the students keep showing up, and support keeps coming from unexpected places. It’s been heartwarming to see my own community really come forward to support these immigrants.” §

*The “Keep English Express Alive” fundraiser runs through October 12. You can donate through Facebook, Gofundme, and <http://englishexpressempowered.com>. Or, mail a check made out to Ink People Center for the Arts to Mary Ann Hytken at PO Box 111, Cutten, CA, 95534. §*

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## Workshops & Classes

### ARISING HOLISTIC CENTER

Yoga videos and meditations

YouTube: [Arising Holistic Center](#)

Facebook: [Arising](#)

### ENGLISH EXPRESS SPRING 2020

English Language Classes for Adults

Clases de Inglés para adultos

NEW! English Express classes, online!

Tuesdays 7-8 pm, Thursdays 10:30-11:30 am.

Classes are FREE. Join anytime.

For more information/Para más información

[englishexpresshumboldt.org](http://englishexpresshumboldt.org)

Facebook: [English Express](#)

(707) 443-5021

### HUMBOLDT UKULELE GROUP

Learn to play in a relaxed group setting

Facebook: Humboldt Ukulele Group for online meet-ups and resources

Contact Deanna: [dsander1@arcatanet.com](mailto:dsander1@arcatanet.com)

### KARUK LANGUAGE CLASSES WITH JULIAN LANG

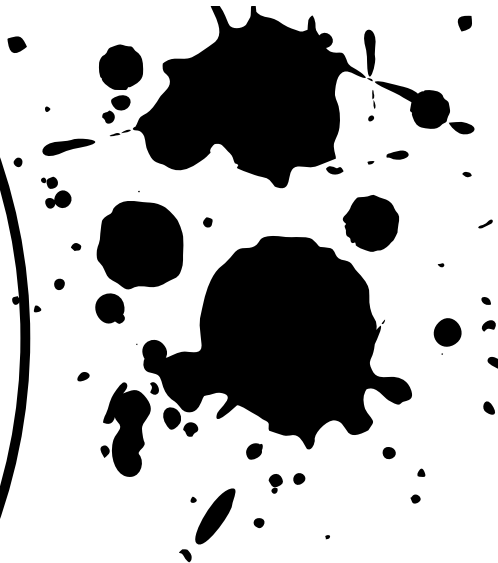
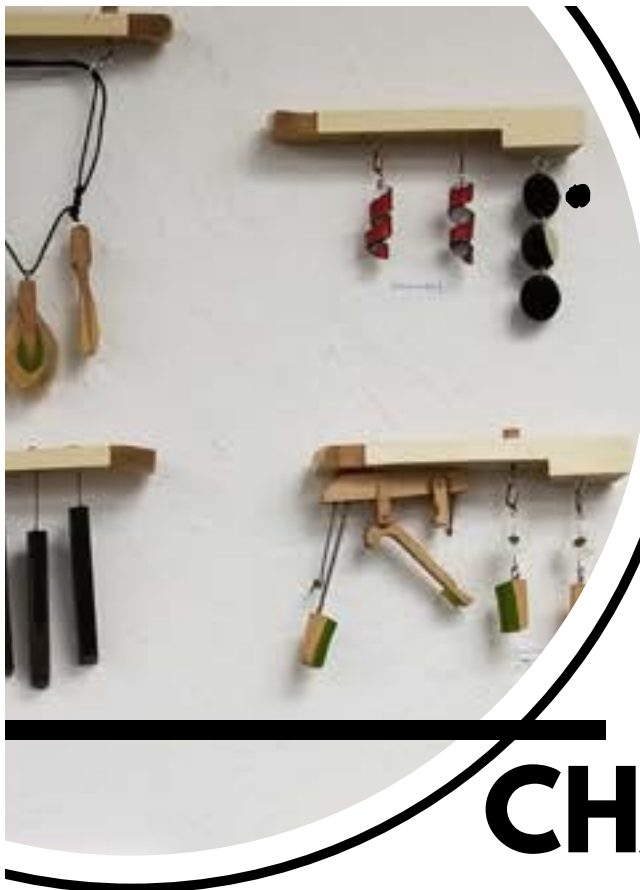
Thursdays 5:15-6:15 pm ONLINE

Facebook: [Karuk Language Project](#)

### SINGING WITH HUMBOLDT SINGS

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

Facebook: [Humboldt SINGS](#) for virtual song circles  
[humboldtSINGS@gmail.com](mailto:humboldtSINGS@gmail.com)



CALL TO ARTISTS

# ARTISTS' CHALLENGE 2020

**December 4-19th,  
Noon to 5pm  
BY APPOINTMENT**

**For more information or to  
make an appointment to see  
the show, call (707) 442-8413.**



**Ink People Members** are challenged to create **15 original works of art** in just 30 days for one big art sale! All 15 pieces of art must be NEW and created between November 1 and November 30, 2020. An Ink People Members Only show. **Entry Fee to the Challenge is \$10.**

Choose one of four sizes for all 15 works, Sale prices are set by size:

[3"x5" = \$25 each] [5"x7" = \$35 each]

[8"x10" = \$45 each] [11"x14" = \$55 each]

All art will be displayed and available for sale at the Brenda Tuxford Gallery

**Details at [inkpeople.org/tuxfordgallery](http://inkpeople.org/tuxfordgallery)**

Featured artworks from the 2019 Artists' Challenge are by Monica Topping.



The Ink People  
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# INK NEWS

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