



## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MARIPOSA'S ART SHOWCASE CELEBRATES STUDENTS MAY 19**

**Families and friends are invited to celebrate the 2,700 youth who participated in Mariposa's Art's innovative after-school arts program this school year**

**WATSONVILLE, CA — May 1, 2018** —Arts Council Santa Cruz County will host a celebration of Mariposa's Art students at Salud Para La Gente in Downtown Watsonville May 19 from 3:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Mariposa's Art is a unique arts education program that provides high school students with their first job, one-on-one mentorship in teaching, and in-depth experience with arts education. Working with their mentoring teaching artists, high school students co-teach guitar, drum, theater, dance and visual art classes to thousands of elementary and middle school students.

Research has shown that student involvement in the arts is linked to higher academic performance, increased standardized test scores, and even lower dropout rates. Arts education fosters critical thinking, problem-solving, collaboration and innovation, and is required by the state as part of K-12 education. Due to funding disparities, however, many schools in our county do not meet these requirements.

"Mariposa's Art's model where high school students serve as mentors works so well, we are so fortunate to have this opportunity for our students." said Susan Gaulty, Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator for Pajaro Valley Unified School District.



Parents, teachers, siblings, arts education advocates, and everyone passionate about integrating arts education into schools are invited and encouraged to attend

"Every day in this program, I see youth transform into leaders as they co-teach with professional artists - and I see the wonder in the eyes of the younger kids who are learning. It's a powerful experience for everyone." said Sarah Brothers, Arts Education Director.

The Showcase is free and open to the public. The event celebrates the work of the more than 2,700 students who participated in Mariposa's Art after-school programs this year. Student performances, a youth art show, awards, artmaking activities for all ages, and food will be provided. Parents, teachers, siblings, arts education advocates, and everyone passionate about the arts in schools are invited and encouraged to attend.

### **About Arts Council Santa Cruz County**

The Arts Council generates creativity, vibrancy, and connection in Santa Cruz County. For 39 years, we have been the bedrock of our creative community, supporting individual and collective artistic expression and building bridges and bonds between people throughout our county.

We know that art changes lives. In Santa Cruz the arts are also an economic driver (\$32 million of economic activity annually), contribute to civic pride, and are one of the most powerful vehicles for bringing people together, creating community dialogues, and strengthening relationships.

Through grants to artists and arts organizations, arts education programs that serve more than 17,000 kids across Santa Cruz County, and community initiatives such as Open Studios and Ebb & Flow, we help Santa Cruz County flourish.

*Portraits and testimonials from a handful of participating high school students are attached below. Additional hi-res classroom photos are available upon request.*

###

**Mariposa's Art transformed me**

because seeing all the kids smile makes me want to give more so they'll keep on smiling. It also helped me be a better speaker in front of people.

**Mariposa's Art me transformó**

porque cuando veo las niños sonreír, me da ganas de dar más para que sigan sonriendo. También me ha ayudado hablar con confianza en frente de un grupo de gente.

- Kelly



**Mariposa's Art transformed me**

by helping me gain a better version of myself.

**Mariposa's Art me transformó**

en ayudarme a obtener una versión mejor de mí mismo.

- Melissa



**Mariposa's Art transformed me**

because it helped me realize that I'd like to become a music teacher and work with kids to help them express themselves through music.

**Mariposa's Art me transformó**

porque me ayudó a darme cuenta de que me gustaría convertirme en maestra de música y trabajar con niños para ayudarlos a expresarse a través de la música.

- Jackie



**Mariposa's Art transformed me**

by further expanding my experience with teaching and helping me become a better role model for others.

**Mariposa's Art me transformó**

ampliando aún más mi experiencia con la enseñanza y ayudándome a ser un mejor modelo a seguir para otros.

- Derian



**Mariposa's Art transformed me**

because it has helped me build confidence in learning new skills with drumming and with teaching kids.

**Mariposa's Art me transformó**

porque me ayudó a ganar confianza en aprender nuevas habilidades con el tambor y con la enseñanza de los niños.

- Tatiana



**Mariposa's Art transformed me**

by helping me find my voice and gain powerful life skills like public speaking and classroom management.

**Mariposa's Art me transformó**

porque me ayudó a encontrar mi voz y adquirir habilidades para la vida poderosas como hablar en público y administrar una aula de estudiantes.

- Vianey

