



Town of Yountville

6550 Yount Street
Yountville, CA 94599

Staff Report

Item #: {{section.number}}A

Yountville Arts Commission Staff Report

DATE: March 3, 2025
TO: Yountville Arts Commission
FROM: Geoffrey Leigh, Commissioner

TITLE/RECOMMENDATION

Monthly update.

DISCUSSION/BACKGROUND

1. The Handwritten Out Loud provided an entertaining evening on February 9th to a sellout crowd in the Yountville tasting room. Eighteen poet and prose readers presented their work, including one musical rendition. The audience appeared to enjoy the presenters and could follow along in the chapbook, distributed as people checked in that afternoon. Marianne Lyon and I introduced the writers along with a quote from a famous author about the writing process. Mary Kate Fitzpatrick, who took the lead in organizing the event for Handwritten, talked about another possible gathering in the summer. One audience member became so inspired by the evening that she submitted a new poem the next day to be considered for the possible summer Handwritten Out Loud.

2. The third Writing Celebration group has been meeting every two weeks to present their latest poem or prose for reactions from the group. We now have 11 members, even with one dropping out. We will continue to meet twice in March and have our final evening celebration on April 8th in the Heritage Room, to share their two favorite works from their writings with friends and family attending and pick up a chapbook of their works.

3. The 2025 Bookmark Story Contest is continuing to proceed. I have set up times to discuss how to write a bookmark story and share examples. One will be in Yountville on March 25th and a second one will be at the Napa Library on April 1st. We will begin accepting submissions from April 7th through June 20th, and Samantha Holland has established the website for submitting either a PDF or Word file this year. I also am reaching out to local high schools to create more youth interest through their English and/or writing classes. Katelyn Huss created a lovely flier and advertisement for the Parks & Recreation summer bulletin.

4. I am again reaching out to get some additional poems or prose for new sculptures on the Art Walk. I again would like to make a chapbook that we can distribute at Art, Sip & Stroll this year with the appropriate older poems as well as new ones that are approved.

FISCAL IMPACT

Is there a Fiscal Impact? No

Is it Currently Budgeted? No

Where is it Budgeted? N/A

Is it Mandatory or Discretionary? Discretionary

Is there a Staff Resource Impact? Nominal