

“The Space Between Art Hike”



Photo by Jeff Engerbretson

About the Land

There is a rich layer of cultures and habitats around Spooner Lake. Similar to the diverse landscape and variety of species of birds flying overhead, with the magnificent aspen groves on the trail, we humans are interconnected and interdependent as we journey on this earth together.

Trails & Vistas respectfully acknowledges that we walk on the unceded land of the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. Consider visiting Spooner Lake State Park again in autumn to experience the changing of the aspen leaves from green to brilliant yellow and orange. At the edge of the lake, you will also find Washoe grinding stone indentations in the granite boulders. The Art Hike around Spooner Lake was a 2.6 mile hiking trail through meadows full of wildflowers, aspen groves, fir trees, Jeffrey and Lodgepole pines.

About the Creative Process

Nancy Tieken Lopez Founder and Artistic Director
<https://www.nancylopezart.com>

"Something draws me to a specific site to inspire the Art Hikes where I listen to the emotional landscape to visualize the performances along the trail. As I walk, I choreograph the Art Hike like a dance, like a musician composing notes of sheet music or a poet writing thoughts on paper. I look at a site and pose the question to myself, "Do I hear harp songs of distant lands, a haunting oboe tune, a poem about breathing, or the rhythm of the drums?" As an installation land artist, I take cues from the earth and its inhabitants as well as the creative artists and musicians that I collaborate with each year." – Nancy Tieken Lopez

Nancy Tieken Lopez, believes “Through the Art Hikes the act of movement through the landscape in a small community carries equal importance as the creation of the art and the land. The experience offers the participant a collection of visual and auditory memories filled with emotions, transporting each person from simply a viewer into a participant. The Art Hike theme *The Space Between* gives importance to the rhythm of the steps between the art sites. Each footstep softly embracing the landscape’s rise and fall, letting the mind drift into the space between the seen and unseen, the space between the motion of indrawn and release of breath.



Photo by Jeff Engerbretson

Dance Inspiration Blending Music, Dance & Nature

Let It Be choreography by Leigh Collins Hunter and Brandon Knowbody Greathouse features the juxtaposition of traditional ballet movements with Hip Hop modern dance, exploring the spaces between struggle, and push and pull, to ultimately end with hopeful and uplifting energy.

Leigh said about the Let It Be collaboration “Working with live musicians you get this very profound connection on an artistic level. Musicians may change the music tempo on site and play elongating notes, so the movement changes with a live performance. There is a play, a pull off the music to create the collaboration that is evolving throughout the day. You feel it, see it, hear it, you flow into it.” Brandon shared “Dancing to live music is the most powerful connection in performance, and where the magic happens. My style of dance is to go with the flow, and let it be.”

Leigh Collins

Dance <https://innerrhythms.org>

Leigh Collins grew up in beautiful Truckee, California. She began her training at InnerRhythms Dance at the age of 13, and continued her training at the Joffrey Ballet School in New York City. From there Leigh joined the Joffrey Concert Group as a founding member in 2011, where she performed original and classic works, touring the United States and Europe. Leigh performed with the Nevada Ballet Theater and is now back home in Truckee teaching classes at InnerRhythms Dance. Leigh has been performing at Trails & Vistas Art Hikes since 2007.



Photo by Jeff Engerbretson

Brandon 'Knowbody' Greathouse

<https://www.facebook.com/GHDTRUCKEE/>

Brandon "Knowbody" Greathouse is a powerhouse in the Hip-Hop dance world. Brandon has won multiple national Hip-Hop battles as well as appeared in MTV's America's Best Dance Crew and recently choreographed Fight 4 Your Life's mysterious Ghost Crew. Although Brandon's dance resume is impressive, it is his passion for helping young creatives in dance and music grow into responsible young adults that makes him truly special.

Lucas Arizu, Guitarist, Let It Be written by Paul McCartney

<https://www.facebook.com/lucas.arizu.1/>



Photography by Jeff Engerbretson

Lucas Arizu with his masterful guitar music plays many genres of jazz songs, funky blues, and Latin grooves ranging from Brazil to Cuba. Argentinean born and raised in Buenos Aires, Lucas began his musical education at the “Escuela de Musica de Buenos Aires” (Buenos Aires Music School) where he learned the art of Tango and Folklore music played on the traditional nylon string guitar. Currently, Lucas Arizu tours with Tim Snider & Wolfgang Timber across the United States, and performs locally with the Reno Philharmonic Orchestra.

Davon Fleming, Vocalist davonfleminginstagram

With a combination of gospel, soul, and jazz, every song is sung to uplift & inspire. Davon has spread the message of LOVE all over the world and returns to Trails & Vistas with the opening performance collaboration of Let It Be.

Before gracing the stage of NBC’s, The Voice, the Baltimore native got his start singing in church.

Fleming discovered his love for music at the tender age of three and throughout the years he would go on to study different genres of music. Through many adversities his perseverance and dedication would be the key to all the doors he wanted open. In 2017 he became a contestant on NBC’s hit singing show, The Voice. Davon also serves communities in his hometown of Baltimore where he holds the key to the city. He continues to show others that anything is possible. Davon Fleming performed at the Trails & Vistas World Concert in 2018 collaborating with musicians and dancers near and far. One participant wrote, “It was like uncorking joy!”





Photo by Jeff Engerbretson

Lorna Denton, Fiber Artist

Landscape weaving of the earth to the sky, *The Space Between*. Participants were invited to weave into the landscape community tapestry a fabric piece, or select natural material found along the path. With individual threads joining the whole. Contemplative questions were asked as individual threads were added to the community weaving.

Excerpt from our Guide Narrative: "Today, I invite you to softly embrace the landscape's rise and fall, letting the mind drift into the space between the seen and unseen, the space between the motion of indrawn and release of breath.

As we enjoy the landscape weaving, bring your attention to the earth and sky, and the window to *The Space Between* the near and far. Before you select an individual thread or stick, relax your shoulders, let this space surround you like a warm bath.

Let us breathe in the changing air from spring to summer, as we are reminded of the rhythms of the seasons. Spring, Summer, Autumn, Winter: birth, growth, decay, rest. The cycles of life turn - and we turn with them. Our energies are renewed in their deepest sources by participation in the cycles of change within our natural world."



Lorna Denton is an artist living and working in Reno, creating site-specific art installations for Trails & Vistas Art Hikes and teaching art for The Dreaming Tree field trips. For the 2014 Meadows to Mountains and 2018 Doorway to the Sublime Art Hikes, Lorna created fiber art interacting with site specific landscapes, art, and each participant.

Her work covers a spectrum of different media, including collage, printmaking, and photography but is predominantly fibre arts. Her work has been exhibited in several group shows in Reno, Truckee, Toronto, Canada and London, UK.

Photo by Lorna Denton





Landscape Fiber Art by Lorna Denton, photo by Troy Corliss

Her B.A in Textile Design was received from West Surrey College of Art and Design, Farnham, UK. Subsequently, she completed a postgraduate degree in Art and Design Education at Middlesex University, London, UK. Currently, she is employed as a Teaching Artist for VSA of Nevada. Her approach is to encourage all students to explore materials and to use visual arts as a learning opportunity.



Jennie Pitts Knipe Choreographer,
Community Dance with Sound & Movement
with dancers Laura Garcia, Paula Smith, Rachel
Hyden. <https://www.jenniepittsknipe.com>

We are all connected. As we gathered as a community in the aspen stand, dancers dissolved the line which traditionally separates performers from their audience. Jennie Pitts Knipe is inspired by how humans relate to one another through movement and is constantly looking to cultivate joy, and healing in her art.

Jennie writes “When we come together in a raw and vulnerable way, we can learn a great deal about those with whom we are sharing space. We hope to offer the audience to fill the space between, blending two worlds of gathering and community through movement and sound. More than ever, gathering feels sacred. Sharing space becomes an act of deep, mutual trust.”

Photo by Jeff Engerbretson



Photography by Jeff Engerbretson



A dedicated educator, Jennie Pitts Knipe has taught creative movement, dance and yoga classes for over two decades. She earned her MFA in Dance from the University of Colorado and her BA in Dance & English Literature from the University of Oregon. Her choreography has been commissioned and/or presented by The Kennedy Center, UNR, The Dance Cartel, Wing & A Prayer Modern Dance Company, Nevada Shakespeare Company, Boulder Museum of Contemporary Art, and Reno's Artown.

In addition to teaching weekly yoga and dance classes, she also facilitates creative wellness retreats, sound healing events, and is the proud mama of her dancing son, Fletcher. She is equal parts dancer and yogini.

A special thank you to dancers Laura Garcia, Paula Smith, and Rachel Hyden.

Andres Amador

<https://andresamadorarts.smugmug.com>

Thank you to artist helpers: Ember Amador, Kavi Amador, Jean Fournier, Dan Joseph, Hunter Banovich, Siena Lopez, and Trails & Vistas board members and Art Hike participants.



Andres and each Art Hike participant worked with the charred circles where the forest was thinned for wildfire mitigation and sustainable forest health. Our inclination: How can we bring beauty here? How can we transform and heal into new life? Rather than avert our eyes from the white ashes and charred wood, how can we engage our hearts and creativity? The inspiration for this Land Art transformation is the color of Sierra Wildflowers.

Asked “Who do you create your art for and why?” Andres shares his inspiration for working in the environment “The real joy comes from when I am out in nature, in the elements, perhaps alone, or inviting others to interact with the art. The joy comes from the satisfaction of an artwork successfully accomplished, as an evolving process. Impermanence is a recurring theme in my work, highlighting the fact that life is in motion and is best experienced in the moment.”



Photography by Jeff Engerbretson

Andres is best known for his massive raked artworks on beaches spanning thousands of square feet. Andres worked with the aspen stand at Spooner Lake in 2014 with mud handprints for Meadows to Mountains Art Hike. His work is inspired by patterns found in nature and in the human made world.





Photo by Troy Corliss

Ross Tieken Woodwork, hand carved Oak Ladder

Fine Woodworking and wind chimes from Bluestem, Shiner, Texas
<https://shinerbluestem.com> and <http://shinerprairie.com>

"A ladder like a door offers us new possibilities, access to a place where we have not been or seen. Only when our awareness is open and present can we begin to notice the doors and ladders offered to us." – Ross Tieken

Guide Narrative Excerpt, "As we pause here to reflect, reach down and touch the earth, and as we unroll up, breathe in, then reach for the sky like the hands on this ladder. The ladder connects our feet rooted in the earth to lifting to the stars above."



Photography by Troy Corliss

Nancy Tieken Lopez

<https://www.nancylopezart.com/sculpture-installation>

Thank you to the artist helpers Al Wilson, Siena & Tavier Lopez, Dan Joseph

Nancy Tieken Lopez' installation working with two burn circles included a walking stick ladder along with her brother's hand carved ladder. The Music of the Spheres chimes harmonized art and nature to uplift the spirit and delight the senses. Both ladders and the walking sticks were featured at Trails & Vistas' Art Hike Passages in 2007.

Collaborative strategies are integral to the work of artist Nancy Tieken Lopez, and are essential to her large scale art installations that began in 1997 for her first art hike titled *Spring Streams*. Each Art Hike is a community experience in environment through art that incorporates performance, music, poetry, dance and installation art. While working on an earth installation, the entire act of creating becomes a reflection of the past, and being in the moment, celebrating the interconnectedness of humanity and the earth.





Photography by Jeff Engerbretson

Emily Tessmer
Singer & Songwriter
<https://www.emilytessmer.media>

“It’s the unseen feeling that we try to find in the landscape and in the song.”

Emily Tessmer chose the poem ‘Unseen’ as her musical inspiration with lyrics inspired by mountaineer and poet of the early 1900’s, Anne Brigman. Emily played her grandmother's one hundred year old mandolin with poetic lyrics that tell a story, a journey into the invisible realm, creating a space to experience a feeling that is unseen, but deeply felt. The imagery is filled with melodies and harmonies that at once sound familiar and new, matching the lyrics every step of the way.

Excerpt of ‘Unseen’ Poem, by Anne Brigman

Why did the slim, young moon

Shine as of minted silver

Emily Tessmer is a storyteller, who celebrates the power of the natural world, and who believes the spirit of man is inherently good. Music, her first love, continues to bring many fruitful adventures. Having six full length albums in her body of work, Emily continues to learn and grow with her songwriting and live performances on the trail and big stage.





Photography by Troy Corliss

Reno's Taiko Tsurunokai

performance on Saturday, June 24,
<http://www.renotaiko.com/>
 RenoTaiko/

Tsurunokai is a Japanese drum group formed in 1997 by Rieko Shimbo. Tsurunokai means "gathering of cranes" and the crane, which is the symbol of the group, can be seen on their drums as well on the festival clothing worn by the performers. Rieko Shimbo was born in Tokyo, Japan where she studied traditional Japanese music and folk dancing for many years. Her passion as well as the

mission of this group is to introduce people to the rich culture of Japan by sharing this exciting art form as well as to create a feeling of community through the music.

Rieko Shimbo

"Thank you so much for giving us an amazing experience again! We truly enjoyed pounding drums in nature and seeing the smiley faces of the hikers. I had a chance to see Motoshi and dancers perform. It was magical, spiritual, personal, and beautiful. Your art made their setting even more perfect. I am grateful to be part of it."

Guide Narrative excerpt "The Space Between" written by Rieko Shimbo.

Stillness. Space. Silence.

"Ma" is the Japanese word for a pause in time or emptiness in space. It is the intake of breath before the energy of life springs forth. Savor the space in between the beats of the drum.

Don Don Ka Ka Ka

Feel the space between the sounds

Heartbeat in nature





Photography by Troy Corliss

Nancy Tieken Lopez

Distant Land Collaboration of dance, music and art set in the aspen meadow

Nancy Tieken Lopez sculpted the encaustic (wax) dresses which were featured in the Full Circle Film using the twirling dresses from the 2008 Art Hikes on Donner Summit. While filming for the Trails & Vistas *Full Circle* film, Motoshi Kosako was playing the song Distant Land and was graced with wildlife being drawn in close to his harp music. Three pelicans soared above the performance installation that was set on the banks of the Little Truckee River at Perazzo Meadows.

For “The Space Between” Art Hikes the collaborating artists of “Distant Land” blended music, dance, and art to build a natural bridge creating an experience in the environment through the arts.

Did you notice your senses being enhanced by the visual of the fluttering aspen leaves shadows on the sculptures, the dancers, and the boulders? It was an honor to collaborate for The Space Between Art Hikes, with both youth InnerRhythms dancers, and choreographer Sheri Woodsgreen to the song “Distant Land, an original composition by Motoshi Kosako.



As the Artistic Director, I have invited Motoshi Kosako to return for several of the Art Hikes since 2016, because the spirit that comes across in his music is the one he exhibits in life. Motoshi is a brilliant harpist with innovative improvisations, a wonderful collaborator, a masterful musician, and a sincere human being.”
– Nancy Tieken Lopez





Motoshi Kosako

古佐古基史

<https://harpmusician.com>

“It’s always a challenge to play music in nature where everything is magnificent and beautiful. This challenge makes me humble, learning the truth about beauty from mother nature.”

– Motoshi Kosako

The original composition, *Distant Land* is a short suite with two movements, Hymn and Prelude. Hymn is a prayer expressing gratitude for the things we take for granted in our everyday life, and Prelude is an uplifting second movement to take us away from this materialistic world to a “Distant Land”, the internal world where our spirits can return anytime and remember that WE are.

Mr. Kosako plays numerous original compositions and standards as a soloist and with a quartet. Motoshi Kosako is considered one of the most influential Jazz harpists in the world.

Photography by Jeff Engerbretson





Photo by Jeff Engerbretson

The Distant Land Art Installation featured dancers Lily Fay, Keanna Barron, Eradin Wordal, and Zora Legnavsky.

Choreography by Sheri Woodsgreen, [https:// innerrhythms.org](https://innerrhythms.org)

Community Partner: InnerRhythms Dance
<https://innerrhythms.org>

“There is no more magnificent “stage” than dancing on mountaintops, in stream beds, meadows, and alongside lakes. Through InnerRhythms’ involvement with Trails & Vistas, we have been able to expose young dancers to the world around them, guiding them to learn about their surroundings, fostering respect for nature and encouraging them to give back to their community through artistic expression.” – Elizabeth Archer

The art of Woodsgreen's choreography involves the specification of human movement and form in terms of space, shape, time and energy, typically within an emotional realm to provoke a connection between place and community. The choreography of Sheri Woodsgreen brings youthful dance symbolizing beauty and awe of flight. Like birds soaring or whimsical clouds traveling from Distant Lands.

InnerRhythms is founded on these principles:

We believe Art transforms the human experience.

We believe Art is a gift to be shared, treasured, cultivated, and enjoyed.

We believe Art is a universal language to promote greater good.

Sheri Woodsgreen,
Choreographer

“Thank you for a magical experience. It is our pleasure and honor to participate in the amazing Art Hikes over the years. Trails & Vistas is where lifelong memories are created.

I was sharing with the young women who performed at the Distant Land installation that “you can share with your grandkids one day that you danced on a mountain top in an aspen meadow to ethereal music performed by a renowned harpist for two days...you saw a bear, bonded with new friends, and it was glorious.”

– Sheri Woodsgreen

Since 2004, the Art Hikes have featured a collaboration with dance for site specific art installation performances featuring InnerRhythms alumni and youth dancers. Each year we walk together, we create together with founding Community Partner InnerRhythms, Elizabeth Archer. This strong partnership continues twenty years later to offer performance installations inspired by Art within Nature.



Photography by Jo Angerbretson



Trails & Vistas

Trails & Vistas mission is to create community by celebrating the arts and nature.

Trails & Vistas facilitates art events in nature for people of all ages to promote an appreciation of the performing and visual arts, builds pride of place, and create relationships that grow into community partnerships.

Trails & Vistas seeks to represent values of equality and inclusion of all people to promote well being and respect for all. We subscribe to the belief that all people should “Treat others as they wish to be treated.” We believe all are welcome.

How we Create

Community:

We strengthen community with our collaborating partners that include artists, poets, conservationists, educators, writers, art nonprofits and environmental nonprofits. We create in a rural culture a community that inspires arts activity, provides economic activity with geotourism, supports a thriving art community, and inspires environmental awareness.



Community Outreach hiking group. Photo by Troy Corliss

Trails & Visas is made possible by a wonderful working board of directors who oversee the operations of the nonprofit, coordinate and train over a hundred volunteers, work hard as artist helpers, fundraise to keep the nonprofit sustainable, and welcome hundreds of Art Hike participants each year.

Board of Directors: Jean Fournier, Maria Jones, Kevin Hill, Dan Joseph, Patricia Kelley, Heather Boger, Ashley Banovich, Laura Brigham, and Sonya Koster.

Advisors and Community Partners: Elizabeth Archer, Romina Branje and Azteca Valdivia-Espinoza for Trails & Vistas new Latinx Community Outreach programs, Cesar Lopez of Atypical Design, and Christina Stoevers Young of Sunshine Tahoe. Trails & Vistas Founder and Artistic Director is Nancy Ticken Lopez.



Photo by Jeff Engerbretson

We could not create our beautiful events without the hundreds of volunteers that give their time, energy, love and support each year. A special thank you to all of the storytelling guides, safety cabooses, and basecamp operation volunteers.

Land Acknowledgement

We walked on the land where the Washoe people have lived for thousands of years. The Washoe people were nomadic and moved with the seasons between the Great Basin and the Sierra Nevada mountains. Indigenous peoples of the Washoe Tribe live in the Tahoe Basin today, and are the original caretakers of this land. They developed an intimate knowledge of the plants and animals in the area of Lake Tahoe.

Thank you Spooner Lake State Park, Lake Tahoe

Spooner Lake Trail offers a diverse setting of forest, meadow and shoreline. As we walked together pausing to see art within nature with the soft hues of the aspen trees, the shadows of the pine forest contrasted with the blue water of the lake. These overlapping areas offer a broad range of animal and plant life and a wide range of diverse landscapes for the Art Hike performance installations. Diversity is vital to sustaining life. Understanding and respecting the history of an area and the fragile ecosystem is key to both cultural and wildlife preservation.

Nevada State Parks are a dedicated Community Sponsor of the Art Hikes at Spooner Lake Park and The Dreaming Tree Field Trips at Sand Harbor State Park. As we start our twentieth year of Art Hikes we give a special thank you to our 2023 Host Sponsor: Spooner Lake State Park.

Celebration from this summer through next, we invite you to explore Art Hikes and join us in creating community by celebrating the arts and nature.

Learn more about the Trails & Vistas Art Hikes since 2004 at www.trailsandvistas.org

Thank You!

Lastly, thank you for your support of the arts, culture, and environment through the past twenty years, and if you are joined us this year for the very first time, we are grateful.

Trails & Vistas participants share about their experience of the Art Hikes

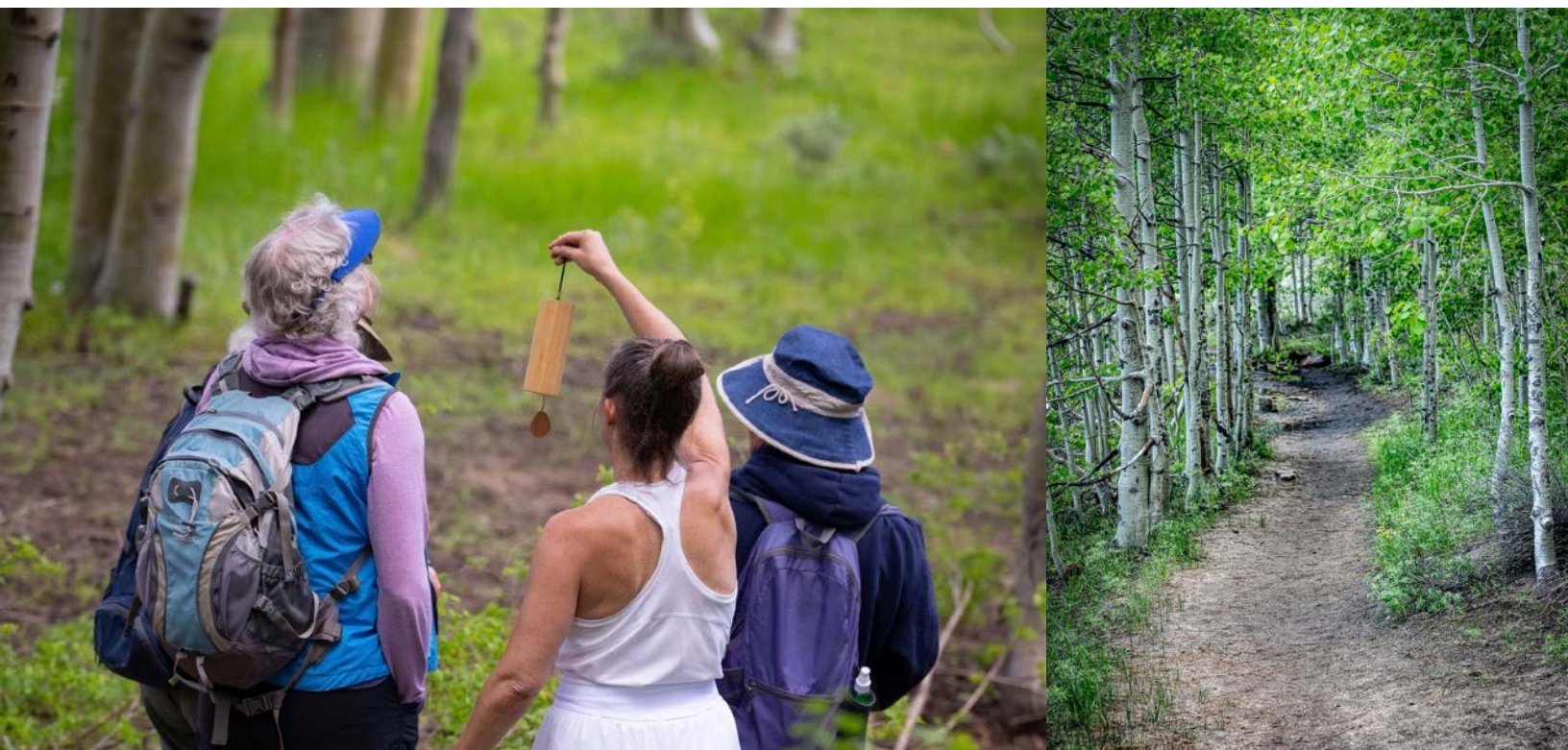
"My first Trails & Vistas today was magical. Let it be. It started there and stayed there for me. Let it be...exquisite, beautiful...let you be who you are." – J. Ardito

"What a beautiful way to celebrate this special place that we call home. It was a magical, mystical, soul enriching day, shared in the company of so many great people. The artists were exceptional in the way they gave of their talent and spirit, to make this a journey to resonate for a long time to come." – K. Ross

Photographers and Videographers

Capturing the experience of the Art Hikes and the performances is a challenge. We are grateful for photographers Jeff Engerbretson, Troy Corliss, and videographer Cayman Levonian.

Thank you Grantors! Martis Camp Foundation, Tahoe Truckee Community Foundation, Rotary Club of Truckee, and California Arts Council



Photography by Jeff Engerbretson