



COUNTY OF SANTA CRUZ

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

979 17TH AVENUE, SANTA CRUZ, CA, 95062

PHONE: (831) 454-7901 - FAX: (831) 454-7940

SCPARKS.COM

NEWS RELEASE

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Contact: Kathy DeWild

Kathy.DeWild@santacruzcountyca.gov

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS – SPOTLIGHT AWARDS

Nominations are currently being accepted for the Santa Cruz County Arts Commission's Spotlight Award. Through the Spotlight Award, the Arts Commission publicly recognizes individuals who have achieved a high level of excellence and creativity in their work, but who have not received widespread acknowledgment of their talent. This annual award recognizes younger artists as well as those who are discovering their artistic voice later in life. The deadline for nomination letters is March 9, 2026.

The award will be given to one artist or artist group in each of the following mediums: visual art, performing arts, and literary arts. Nominees must reside in Santa Cruz County. In addition, they must have completed works that show a high degree of excellence, individuality, innovation, and/or creativity. Their work must show artistic promise as demonstrated in a significant achievement for at least one completed piece of artwork, performance, exhibit, or written work which is recognized by critics, educators, or arts professionals.

Only Santa Cruz County residents may nominate an artist by submitting a letter of no more than two pages. The letter must include the name of the artist and their contact information (e-mail, website if available, phone and local address), a brief description of your relationship to the artist, an explanation of why you are nominating them for the award, and how they meet the criteria (how they stand out as an emerging artist).

Send your nomination letter to: kathy.dewild@santacruzcountyca.gov – Subject Line: Spotlight Award Nomination. Santa Cruz County Parks staff will notify the nominees and provide them with the application information. More info is available at <https://parks.santacruzcountyca.gov/Home/FindaProgram/ArtsCulturalPrograms/SpotlightAward.aspx>.