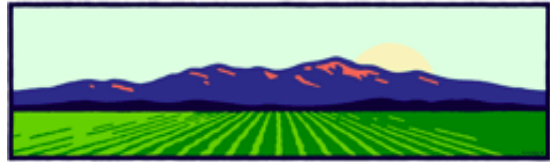




California Stories Project Communities Speak



CALIFORNIA
STORIES™

Communities Speak

The California Council for the Humanities

Finding Marin: Stories of Home

Artists, Oral Historians and Marin Residents look at the challenges of making a home in Marin, preserving its natural beauty, and finding affordable housing.

**On exhibition at the
Marin Community Foundation
October 24, 2005 through February 9, 2006**

Can the Arts and Humanities assist a community in understanding the challenges it faces, and in crafting creative responses that can make a positive difference for everyone? Perhaps above all, the arts can help tell a community's stories, empowering individuals to see their neighbors, friends - and even themselves - in new and revealing ways.

This is the premise for this exhibit and for a multi-year project of the California Council for the Humanities entitled "California Stories: Communities Speak." CCH supported projects in eight communities across California to explore the potential for stories to address pressing contemporary issues. The Marin Arts Council is proud to have been selected to represent Marin as one of the eight communities participating in this important project.

The exhibit contains selected interview quotes and photographs that reveal how a diverse range of people came to Marin, how they have made a home here, why they stay and what the concepts of community and home mean to them. The interviews were done within the context of the challenges Marin faces in providing affordable housing for all community members, while preserving Marin's unique culture, natural beauty and open space.

From 2002 - 2004, the Marin Arts Council worked with oral historians Alicia J. Rouverol and Margie Crawford-Ryan, photographer Robert Bengtson, artists and community leaders to create a "snapshot" of Marin with the concept of home and its relationship to the ever-present issue of affordable housing as a backdrop

Among the interviewees are teachers, a postal employee, poets, visual artists, musicians, park rangers, a hair dresser, a developer, a day laborer, a professional house sitter, carpenters, students, dairy workers and retirees. They include residents of San Rafael, Point Reyes, Ross, Lagunitas, Novato, Mill Valley, Marin City, Sausalito, San Geronimo and Fairfax. They all call Marin home.

In addition to this central exhibit, the Arts Council invited three artists who had received grants through the Marin Arts Council's Community Arts Grants Program to present their work from those projects. They are: "Far From Home" by photographer Luz Elena Castro,

"Faces of Affordable Housing" by photographer Nita Winter, and "Close Neighbors" a video by filmmaker Ami Capen.

Marin-based poets who have received grants through the Marin Arts Council's Individual Artists Grants Program were also invited to compose poems that reflected the themes of this project. Poems and selected interviews and photographs are part of a book also entitled Finding Marin: Stories of Home. It includes work specifically for this project by Marin poets Joan Baranow, Karen Benke, Claire Blotter, Albert Flynn DeSilver, Sharon Fain, Elizabeth Hope, Robin Leslie Jacobson, William Keener, Richard Lang, Prartho Sereno, Keith Shein and Joseph Zaccardi.

"Finding Marin" is about making and keeping a home. It is about people from vastly different areas of the county and with vastly different histories coming together around a specific topic, identifying common values and goals and trusting one another to discuss possibilities that work for everyone.

The Marin Arts Council is deeply grateful to the residents of Marin who helped make this project possible by sharing their time, talent, experience, connections, resources, observations and most of all their stories.

[home](#) [what's new!](#) [programs & services](#) [open studios](#) [grants](#) [membership](#) [exhibits & events](#) [resources & links](#) [about us](#)

Marin Arts Council ----
555 Northgate Drive, Suite 270
San Rafael, CA 94903
Office Hours: 9 - 5 Monday - Friday
Phone:(415) 499-8350 ---- Fax:(415) 499-8537
e-mail: marinarts@marinarts.org ---- web site: <http://www.marinarts.org>