

## **'Applause for Art Lovers' celebrates the arts and those who support them**

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For several hours on the evening of 8/4, the Sierra Nevada Foothills rang with the applause of art lovers in appreciation for the many contributions of the [El Dorado Arts Council](#). The annual Applause for Art Lovers event, held in the beautiful [Madroña Vineyards](#) in Apple Hill, celebrated the milestones of the past year on many arts fronts.

Attendees sipped Madroña wines as they listened to the music of Philip Reddin and Afton Parker before the formal program began. Spirits climbed higher than the redwood trees surrounding the Madroña tasting room as EDAC members and volunteers mingled and enjoyed hors d'oeuvres provided by Foothill Grill & Catering. Those in attendance could view samples of some of the outstanding art work seen at EDAC's ArtSpace in Placerville as part of the "Emerging Artists" and other competitions held in 2012.

EDAC Executive Director Deb Jensen led the presentation portion of the evening. Once the formal introductions were completed, she turned the microphone over to Corbin Gomez. Gomez, the 2012 El Dorado County [Poetry Out Loud](#) champion, went on to win the California State title and Honorable Mention at the national level. He performed one of his competition pieces, "What Work Is" by Phillip Levine.

Following his recital, Jensen returned to the microphone to present the Arty Awards for 2012. These tributes acknowledged special contributions to the arts in El Dorado County this year. The handsome trophies were crafted by [Bennett Gallery](#).

Arts Teacher of the Year awards went to Candi Lincoln of South Lake Tahoe High School for her work with the Congressional Art Competition and Liz Ketelle of Golden Sierra High School, Charter University Prep's Kate Wells and Mark Coovelis of Oak Ridge High School for their work with [Poetry Out Loud](#). This marked Coovelis' second recognition of the evening, as Corbin Gomez had noted that Coovelis was his English teacher and served as coach and encourager to Gomez.

Coloma Blues Live, an annual music program presented by EDAC, provided an opportunity to acknowledge volunteer contributions. Special commemorative ball caps were presented to "Coloma Blues Live Lifers" Ron Blackburn, Rick Ferguson, Jody Franklin, John Haller, Dave Hamblen, Cara Hutchinson, Vicki Kennedy, Jeff Kennedy, Jayne Moore, Beth Peterson, Beverly Schwartzberg, Monika Stephens and John Tillman. The audience roared as Jensen recounted some of the activities that earned the volunteers their caps.

Two special awards for Creative Genius went to Moira Magneson as the Poetry Out Loud Inspirator and Richard Thompson, the Creative Solutions Handyman responsible for ArtSpace's physical maintenance and problem solving. The final awards of the evening went to Women's Fund of El Dorado and the County of El Dorado as Key Sponsors of the Arts.

The [El Dorado Arts Council](#) employs three staffers: Jensen, Program Administrator Emogene Haller and Gallery Coordinator Laura Washburn. A ten-member Board of Directors, currently headed by President Emily Smith, and a wide array of benefactors, patrons and advocates assist in the success of the small but influential organization. The Council's motto, More Arts for More People in More Places, demonstrates the commitment of this group to enriching El Dorado County in all of the arts.