



PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
July 17, 2024

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Young Artists Transform Trash into Art

Once again, the Upper Guadalupe River Authority (UGRA) teamed up with the Hill Country Arts Foundation (HCAF) to highlight the prevalence of trash in our waterways and give litter a new life through art. Since the HCAF River Art Assemblage Workshop was held before UGRA's Annual River Clean Up, UGRA staff collected items to inspire the artists and their creations while conducting routine crossing cleanups. Items with an interesting color or texture like fishing nets, sunglasses, and windshield wipers, were set aside to be used during this year's workshop. Working with youth to transform trash into art serves dual purposes. It helps instill art appreciation and technique while raising awareness of the impact litter can have on the health of our river and creeks. Some of the art pieces will continue to share this important message by becoming permanent installations in the EduScape – UGRA's demonstration landscape at 125 Lehmann Drive in Kerrville.

During the week of July 8th, instructor and artist, Phyllis Garey, led young artists through a weeklong assemblage workshop at HCAF. Four students worked diligently during the week to create both collaborative and individual pieces. Garey encouraged the students to evaluate the items for their shape, texture, color, size, and guided the artists through a variety of age-appropriate techniques to create mobiles, sculptures, paintings, and original designs. Garey also discussed stewardship of the Guadalupe River, the organisms that rely on a healthy river, and threats to water quality while the students created plein-air paintings along the river. A reception to view the final pieces of art was held at the HCAF on July 12th. Several of the pieces were then moved to the UGRA lobby and will be on display through September 6th. Please stop by the UGRA building at 125 Lehmann Drive anytime Monday – Friday 8 a.m. – 5 p.m. to view the artwork.



Assemblage workshop reception held on July 12, 2024. Workshop participants proudly gathered in front of their art. Pictured left to right: UGRA Board Vice President Maggie Snow, Brook Hunter, Lili Chambers, Parker Crain, Damien Prine, and Instructor Phyllis Garey.

It is not too late to participate in the Annual River Clean Up! Volunteers will gather throughout Kerr County on July 27th to clean up at road crossings, riverbanks, creek beds, roadsides, drainage ditches, and in the river itself. They will then bring their trash back to Flat Rock Park where there will be wrap up activities including refreshments, a prize drawing, and an ecological fair. If you haven't registered yet but still want to participate, stop by Flat Rock Park on July 27th, at 8 a. m. to pick up supplies and be assigned to a site. For more information, visit www.ugra.org/major-initiatives/river-clean-up.

Let's Keep *Our* River Clean

Artwork created during the Hill Country Arts Foundation assemblage workshop is currently on display in the UGRA lobby.

