

SHORTCUTS ART



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Open Ground Studios Gives Artists a Community

BY MICHAEL CHATFIELD

Denese Sanders founded Seaside's Open Ground Studios in 2013 to provide a collective space and community studio for artists working in many mediums.

On any given afternoon, resident and co-op artists at Seaside's Open Ground Studios (OGS) might be sketching, painting, making prints, building books, producing fabric art or discussing their work with other creatives. It's the real-life version of a vision that founder Denese Sanders shared with fellow contemporary artists when she opened the arts collective and community studio in 2013.

Next February, the Arts Council for Monterey County will recognize Open Ground Studios' impact with a 2019 Champion of the Arts Award in the nonprofit category. Nominations praised the variety of activities, affordable studio spaces and innovative, supportive approach to empowering local artists, explains Arts Council Executive Director

Paulette Lynch.

"[Sanders] is also an exemplary leader in our community," Lynch adds, "for her determination and her passion for connecting artists and community in unique and powerful ways."

In addition to engaging established and emerging artists, Sanders encourages neighbors to explore creative endeavors during OGS workshops.

"We see adults come in who love their jobs, but feel something is missing. Here in the studio, they challenge themselves to find that inner creative voice. They leave with a new passion, and they can say, 'I am an artist.' I'm really proud of that," Sanders says.

Please visit opengroundstudios.com to learn more. Gala info is at arts4mc.org.