



## PRESS RELEASE

For Immediate Release  
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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) and Riverside Nature Center to highlight the prevalence of trash in our waterways and give litter a new life through art. On July 22<sup>nd</sup>, UGRA hosted the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual River Clean Up at Flat Rock Park. As the over 500 River Clean Up volunteers hauled in 8,110 pounds of trash, they also kept an eye out for items with an interesting color or texture to be used during upcoming art workshops. 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 24<sup>th</sup>, instructor and artist, Phyllis Garey, led young artists through a weeklong assemblage workshop at HCAF. Five students ranging in age from nine to sixteen 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, and 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 and took the students on a walk down to the river to draw inspiration from nature. A reception to view the final pieces of art was held at the HCAF on July 28<sup>th</sup>. Several of the pieces were then moved to the UGRA lobby and will be on display through September 8th. 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 28, 2023. Workshop participants proudly gathered in front of their art. Pictured left to right: Instructor Phyllis Garey, Dottie Blevins, Sophia Bury, Bella Bridges, Quinn McCain, Damien Prine, and assistant instructor Heston Lovelace.

An additional follow-up workshop was held on Tuesday, August 1<sup>st</sup> at Riverside Nature Center as part of their weekly summer Nature Night series. Children, parents, and grandparents worked together to use items collected during the River Clean Up to create paintings and assemblage pieces in just one hour.

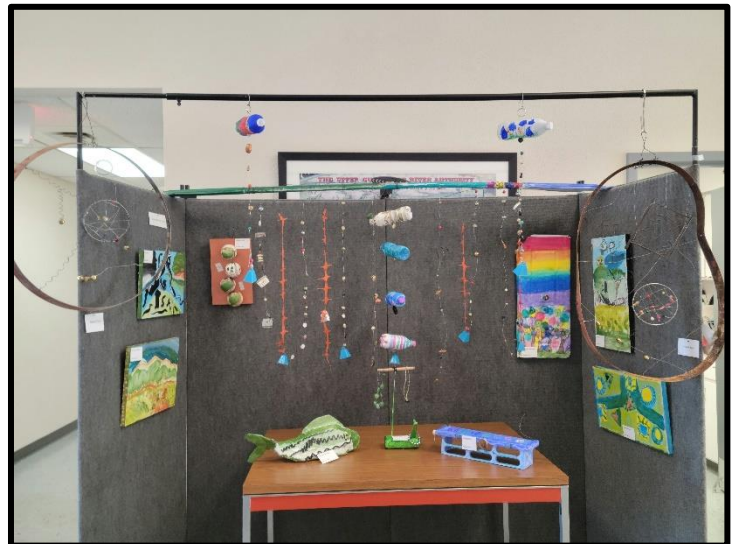


Families worked with items found during the UGRA Annual River Clean Up at the Riverside Nature Center Nature Night on August 1<sup>st</sup>.

If you were not able to participate in the 20<sup>th</sup> Annual River Clean Up, there is still an opportunity to help keep OUR river clean! The On Your Own (OYO) River Clean Up will take place September 1 – October 31. Cleanups can be conducted in small groups, at your own pace, and when you have time. UGRA will support your cleanup by providing supplies and coordinating trash drop off. Volunteers will also receive an Annual River Clean Up t-shirt if they did not receive one at the big event on July 22<sup>nd</sup>. For complete details and to register today, visit:

[www.ugra.org/major-initiatives/river-clean-up](http://www.ugra.org/major-initiatives/river-clean-up)

### **Let's Keep *Our* River Clean**



Artwork created during the Hill Country Arts Foundation assemblage workshop and Nature Night at Riverside Nature Center is currently on display in the UGRA lobby.