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This is Winston Papstein, filling in for Fred Nelson, with today's KINS Community Comment. There are many exciting events that go on in Humboldt County including the annual Redwood Coast Jazz Festival (or 'Music Festival', depending on who you talk to), the yearly holiday events in Old Town and on the Plaza in Arcata and countless others. But one that always fascinated me as a kid were the monthly 'Arts Alive' showings in Humboldt County. On the first Saturday of the month (or second Friday in Arcata), visual and performance artists would gather and show the city, plus their friends and family, what they were capable of creating. Although the sounds of music were nice to hear, as a visual person I would always lean more towards the paintings and drawings displayed in the windows. I was always captivated and amazed when I would go by and see what members of our community are able to create with a pencil, paintbrush, or whatever medium of choice the artist decided to use. As an artist for as long as I can remember, I always thought it would be cool to be showcased in one but I was also a nervous and shy individual who would back away from the thought of people critiquing my work. Also, I was anxious that it would not meet the 'passing mark' and people would metaphorically tear them apart and ridicule each piece to no end. As time went on, my mind went to other things but the thought of being part of Arts Alive someday was always lingering in the back of my mind. When I graduated from an art school in the Bay Area in 2012, my self-confidence had grown exponentially and when I moved back up to Humboldt County in 2015, I resolved to try and be part of one by my ten year high school reunion. As I worked on my craft, I would go down to Old Town every month past the venues that participated in Arts Alive wondering which place I would like to approach with showcasing my art. After much searching, I found a venue that appealed to me but I still faced the artist's greatest ^{critic}critique: myself. "Your art is still nowhere close to being presented there; you will embarrass yourself in front of everyone." Friends and family would say I was ready, but I still needed to cross that last hurdle and convince MYSELF that I was ready. Then one day, I decided to bite the bullet and went in and asked the store manager if I could sign up for Arts Alive. To my relief (and unexpected surprise) he said 'sure' and pulled out a signup sheet. Just like that, I was in! No long filtering process of elimination, no arduous test, nothing. And also, I reached my goal of being part of one before my 10 year reunion in the middle of June; since I chose the month of June before I knew of it, I really made it under the wire. Arts Alive is one of those events that are always a treat to go down and see what members of your community are capable of and I'm glad that I can be a part of it. Feel free to swing by Ellis Arts in June to see my artwork. Otherwise, you can hear me on the radio weekdays and on Saturdays for The Shopping Show. This has been Winston Papstein for today's KINS Community Comment.