

Erin Dunn
Community Comment
September 12, 2017

This is Erin Dunn of the Fortuna Chamber of Commerce with a Community Comment.

Several businesses in Humboldt County have been out in front of the trend “socializing while creating art.” I watched a rerun of a Shark Tank last week where they were pitching a “paint and sip” franchise, and I thought—we don’t need that here, because we ALREADY have local options for the creative, and hesitantly creative, people in Humboldt County.

Sweet Evergreen Signs in Fortuna has a sign-making class that can also be scheduled and reserved as a special event—say a birthday party or girls night out.

Sweet Evergreen offers guided step-by-step wood sign making classes. They prepare your size choice and print your vinyl design ahead of time. You just show up and do the rest--with their professional instructions and assistance along the way.

They typically offer 2 to 4 “group sign” classes per month, as well as private group classes. Gather your friends and create a unique piece of decor for your home while having fun at the same time. Here’s the thing—the classes are great for team bonding and team building—or for any other wonderful reason to get together with friends. Food and drinks are welcome at Sweet Evergreen. You can find information on upcoming classes on their Facebook page. Again, this is Sweet Evergreen in Fortuna.

Artist Dakota Daetwiler is back in Fortuna. You may remember that her gorgeous studio and art gallery was in the Star Hotel building that

burned a couple of years ago. She is back in business with Paintings by Dakota Daetlwiler.

Dakota hosts painting nights in her home (which doubles as her studio) right in Fortuna.

Go directly to her website – PaintingsByDakota.com -- and purchase tickets, see pricing, available dates, and other details. Some classes include wine and some are more family oriented for kids and parents.

There are classes for advanced painters who want to learn more about technique and classes for beginners too, when you just paint fun stuff.

You can find out more about it at PaintingsByDakota.com.

One of the original shops with the concept of communal art is Parasol Arts Paint Your Own Pottery and Mosaics located in Eureka on G Street (formerly of Ferndale). What's great about this option is that you can just walk-in with friends and create special pieces of ceramics and mosaics. They will teach you a few techniques and then you are off and running. I usually opt for decorating with polka dots, but you can get as wild as you want. This is great for all ages. Check out their Facebook page Parasol Arts.

Artist Susan Cooper has returned to Fortuna and can arrange Artful Gatherings at her home studio. She has a wide range of artistic options Get in touch with Susan through email at SusanCooper@iCloud.com

It's time to discover the artist within you!

This has been Erin Dunn with a Community Comment.