

## 2017 Haines and Friends Award Report – Abram R. Katz

This award brought two six-week self-expression and creative visual art classes to Walker Elementary School, Ashland, OR. in partnership with Jennifer Parks and Dylana Garfas. We served 50 fourth through fifth grade Language Arts students. I offered onsite teacher development for both teachers as well as five community volunteer opportunities. Two all day student interview sessions were filmed and turned into several inspiring shorts for the community.

**Example:** [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1M4fJGe\\_eE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1M4fJGe_eE)

These will be displayed at the Award ceremony during first Friday in Ashland Oregon. Overall, these classes were a tremendous success, as highlighted by our front-page article in the Ashland Daily Tidings/Mail Tribune.

**Link:** <http://www.mailtribune.com/news/20161017/walker-students-bring-tales-of-their-lives-to-life>

When fourth and fifth grade students from Walker Elementary School in Ashland, OR. were asked if they liked being at school more, after experiencing Mr. Katz's Creative Art/Writing Workshop, they responded:

*"Yes, because I don't feel judged anymore."*

*"Yes, because now I have more ideas for my stories."*

*"Yes, because after this workshop, I'm better at handwriting and art."*

*"Yes, because now people are nice and happy."*

*"Yes, because before I didn't feel confident in my writing, and now it is one of my favorite subjects in school!"*

Mission accomplished. ☺ Our young people are feeling more confident about themselves and their abilities to thrive in society as whole, happy people. Thank you for supporting my work. See you next year.

Abram R. Katz - Social Artist

187 E. Butler Lane  
Ashland, OR. 97520  
(510) 228-9748