

LARRY SPRING MUSEUM
OF COMMON SENSE PHYSICS

July 28, 2026

Redwood Time Exhibition — Funding Request

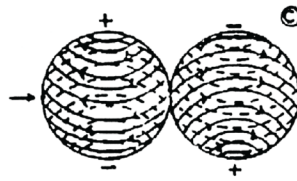
ATT: Community Development Committee

The Larry Spring Museum is seeking support from the City of Fort Bragg for the Redwood Time Exhibition that we are planning to mount in the dry shed at the mill site in April 2027. The exhibition is the culmination of a four-year community art project that has critically and creatively engaged with downtown Fort Bragg's iconic redwood round and its affixed timeline.

To date, we have been awarded \$20K from the Andy Warhol Foundation in support of the exhibition. Our hope is that the City of Fort Bragg can contribute \$10-15K toward additional costs.

Organization Background: The Larry Spring Museum is an artist-run museum that began with the collection of self-taught experimenter Larry Spring. Spring perceived the world through the lens of enchantment; he was amazed by natural science and was possessed by a unique relationship with physics. Over the course of 50-plus years of study, he transformed his surroundings into a multifaceted archive of objects and ideas that embodied and connected his sense of wonder and place. After Spring's death, the Museum has continued to build on his legacy, using his collection and processes as a foundation for the Museum's programming.

Project Background and Cultural Context: A monumental round taken from a Coast Redwood tree stands in the center of downtown. From the center of the slice to the outer rim, there are 17 markers documenting "Historical Events in the Life of this Tree" that serve as a celebration of far-flung events which occurred during the tree's early life. The final marker celebrates the building of the sawmill, and the harvesting of the 1,750-



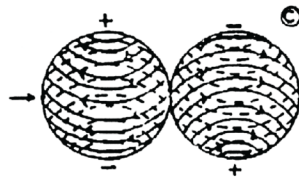
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year-old tree. As with similar redwood rounds in Northern California, Fort Bragg's log slice naturalizes Euro- and human-centric cultural achievements as the default approach to an understanding of modern history. Notably, the markers exclude local histories that could have been added to provide us with a richer understanding of the past we inherit, and the territory we inhabit: the lived experience of communities who have called this land home across time, generations and arrivals; the deep ecology and the history of the terra itself; details of the species and ecosystems that were lost to the extraction economy -- including the very tree this slice was cut from. The log slice's function is to educate people about the tree's age in a 'relatable' way, but who is relating, and what exactly are they relating to?

The Redwood Time project proposes that we draw into question our notions of individuality as we link ourselves together with complex histories, ecosystems and multi-species relationships by creating a new monument for Fort Bragg. The project has unfolded in 3 phases:

Phase 1, Round Making (2023/24): The community collectively stitched together a 1:1 scale fabric model of Fort Bragg's redwood round using donated fabric of historic/sentimental value. The fabric was then dyed with color made from plants and mushrooms found in the redwood forest. The fabric model is 18 feet in circumference and shows the original timeline markers along with the corresponding tree rings. During this phase we collected fabric, facilitated sewing circles and dye gatherings and pieced together the round.

Phase 2, Conceptions of Time and Interconnectedness (2025/26): The community was challenged with re-imagining a new collective monument for today and tomorrow, by expanding the timelines into a series of local, lived and non-human experiences of time and their interconnected relationships. To date the Larry Spring Museum has hosted



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approximately 110 free events, workshops and gatherings connected to the Redwood Time project!

Phase 3, The Exhibition (2027): Our funding ask is for an exhibition centered on the community-made fabric round and its timelines. We intend to transform the very place where the original tree was processed — the dry shed on the Mill Site— into a platform for reflection and creative engagement. This site is a poignant and symbolically resonant exhibition space, connecting the community-made round and its new timelines to the tumultuous history from which it emerged. We are in active discussions with the Skunk Train and anticipate formalizing a site agreement. The exhibition will be accompanied by public programming. We will provide full details once they have been finalized. We are also seeking to engage with other local organizations, galleries and non-profits to participate during the month of April so that the event becomes city-wide.

In conclusion, the Redwood Time exhibition will bring together the many communities who participated in phases 1 and 2, will expose the work to new audiences, and position Fort Bragg as a site of reconciliation and creative civic engagement.

Should the City of Fort Bragg provide funding, the Larry Spring Museum will give you with a full report of exhibition expenses and images for promotion. The City's logo will figure on all our material.

I appreciate your time in reviewing our proposal.

Anne Maureen McKeating
Director, Larry Spring Museum
director@larryspringmuseum.org

The Larry Spring Museum presents:



Redwood round & current timeline



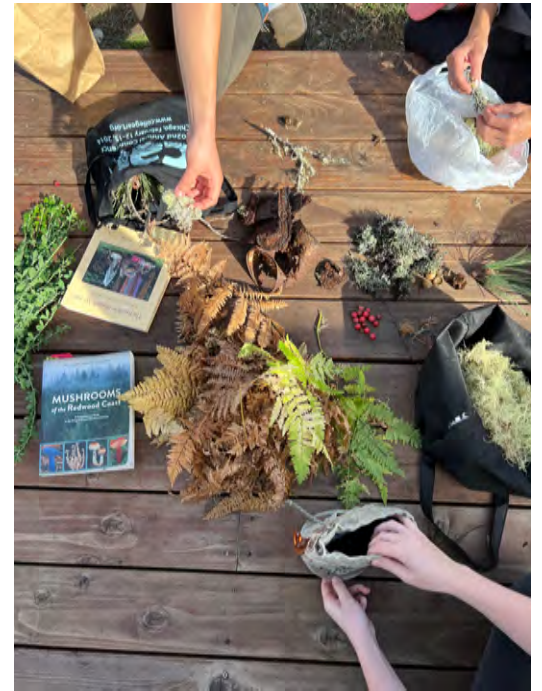
Redwood Time: Building the 1:1 scale model of the round



Lead Artist Anne Beck with 1:1 pattern of the round.



Fabric donated by the community



Dye materials gathered from the redwood forest

Redwood Time: Phase 1 Dye Gatherings & Sewing Circles

Partnership with Pacific Textile Arts



Community dye gathering at PTA



Dyed donated fabric cut into redwood round pattern



Community sewing circle



Redwood Time Phase 2: Timeline mark-making



Making inks and paints from foraged matter for the community to use for community-based timeline creation



Mushroom – dyed threads to be used to create tree rings & timelines on the round



Ink and drawing test showing sand dollar paint & pisolithus fungi ink

Redwood Time Programming

Objective: to get participants to think about time, timelines and ways of perceiving



Animation workshops with Melissa Ferrari. Participants playfully explored Fort Bragg's myths and ecosystems. Their work was included in a magic lantern performance at the end of Ferrari's residency.



Professor Jeff Solomon explains the history and meaning behind the current timeline



Soil Chromatography workshop involved collecting soils from locations around Fort Bragg and testing them for soil health. The chromas will mark 'soil time'.



Participants collected wild clay from the Fort Bragg 'paint pots' and used the clay to make beads marking geological time.

Redwood Time Programming Partnerships



An expanded cinema performance that explored non-human ways of being. In partnership with the Mendocino Film Festival



Mysteries of the Round timeline creation and performance in partnership with community, Théâtre de la Liberté and Art Explorers



Building a timeline of Mendocino's Latinx presence. In partnership with MendoLatino

Redwood Time Phase 3: Dry sheds exhibition site



Exterior of the dry shed on the Mill site. It is centrally located and easily accessed from both downtown and the coastal trail.



Concept photo of the round installed in-situ. The interior space is raw and objects currently in storage will be removed. The round will be the central object. Installations and performances by local artists will take place throughout the space.