

# GO! ROGUE

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

June 3, 2026

## 'CREATING A CULTURE OF BELONGING'

**Multi-media artist Abram Katz to present 'The Home Project,' amplifies voices of the homeless, explores the meaning of home, community. SEE PAGE 2**

### BRITT FEST

Britt to honor Founder with stage dedication, celebration. **PAGE 3**

### THEATER REVIEW

Camelot's 'Spotlight on Garth' hits all the right notes. **PAGE 4**

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Savor Southern Oregon returns with expanded offerings **PAGE 5**

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## FOCUS FEATURE

# 'HOME PROJECT'

A key focus for Abram Katz in "The Home Project" was to have genuine, honest conversations, finding what "home" means to people who are experiencing being unhoused or have prior experience.

(ARK PHOTOGRAPHY/COURTESY PHOTO)

*Ashland-based photographer's collaborative art project to be displayed at ScienceWorks*

BY JAMES SLOAN  
Rogue Valley Times

**A**s a multi-media artist and organizer of various school programs centered on self-reflection, personal growth and more, Abram Katz finds a way to thread identity, community and self worth with art.

Katz will be showcasing that connection through an upcoming art exhibition at ScienceWorks Hands-On

Museum in Ashland with "The Home Project: Creating a Culture of Belonging"

The exhibition is centered on humanizing the unhoused residents of Southern Oregon, telling their stories through portrait photography and amplifying the voices of those affected by housing insecurity, immigration policy, financial hardship and social marginalization while exploring the idea of what "home" means.

"In relationship to 'The Home Project,' I've been working in the arts and culture sector for probably over 20 years. Primarily — prior to a bunch of these public exhibits and interactive social experiments of sorts — I've been working directly with youth in middle and high schools bringing education and arts programs forward," Katz said. "A lot of what I do comes out of a need in

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## Submit your event to Go! Rogue

Go! Rogue — your number one spot to find out what's happening in the Rogue Valley — invites public notices regarding entertainment-related events and activities such as live music and concerts, plays, presentations, and more. Please email your event information to [go@rv-times.com](mailto:go@rv-times.com).

Cover image: **Stephanie**, a participant in Abram Katz's collaborative art, "The Home Project."

ARK Photography/Courtesy photo

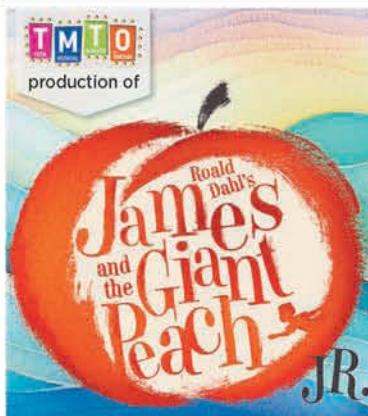
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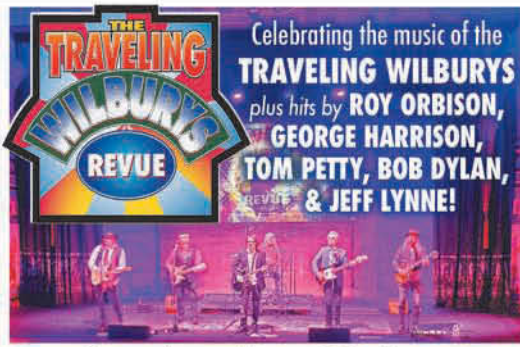
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# Project:

continued from 2

society to have genuine connection, now more than ever, to see beyond divides and make those bridges.”

“The Home Project” features 11 individuals documentary-style portraits paired with recorded interviews, which were then given to 12 collaborative artists around the state to reinterpret and make original works, presenting the individuals’ lived experiences through an artist’s lens.

An opening reception and artist talk with Katz, featuring behind-the-scenes footage, will be held from 4 to 6 p.m. Saturday, June 6, at ScienceWorks Hands-On Museum, 1500 E. Main St. in Ashland. The exhibition will remain on display in the STEAM Gallery at the museum through August.

For more information on the opening reception, visit [scienceworksmuseum.org](http://scienceworksmuseum.org).

The idea behind “The Home Project” stemmed from Katz’s experience with youth programs as well as an exhibition at the Museum of Art and History in Santa Cruz, California, called “Look Me in the Eyes.”

“I got so excited about it. I wanted to replicate and scale what we did there but in my own style, more the social,

emotional and personal connection,” Katz said.

One of the first steps involved reaching out to multiple community advocates and regional nonprofits in the Rogue Valley, including Life Art, La Clinica, UNETE Oregon, the Oregon Community Foundation and Friends of the Animals.

“They directed me to people that are representative of the population they’re working with,” Katz said.

Each of the 11 individuals had experienced homelessness or are currently experiencing it.

Making sure to not fall into the trap of evoking pity for unhoused individuals in his project, Katz’s approach was simple: Have an honest and open conversation, listen to people in a heartfelt way and learn more about what “home” means to them.

“We’re offering an alternative to the cultural norms, which would be to look the other way, which would be to shame others,” Katz said. “I wanted to look at a larger view, a larger scope for project.”

While equity and disparity issues came up in conversations, it wasn’t the central focus of highlighting the lives and stories of each individual.

“I was profoundly impacted again by the profound simplicity of creating space for meaningful connection,” he said.

While all of the subjects involved in the project had memorable moments and



A key intention for Abram Katz’s “The Home Project: Creating a Culture of Belonging,” was to showcase the passions and interests of participating individuals, such as Jaws’ affinity for painting. (ARK PHOTOGRAPHY/COURTESY PHOTO)

stories, one of the individuals he photographed and interviewed, Stephanie, was a particularly illuminating person to chat with.

Connected through Friends of the Animals, Stephanie has a degenerative eye condition reducing her sight by 90%, but the central focus of her interview was hearing about her passions and her love for her dog, Rosie.

She brought her roller skates, a bellydancing outfit and, of course, Rosie, when she met with Katz.

“She talked about her place, where she finds home; it’s really in the quieter months with herself and with her dog, Rosie,” Katz said.

Looking to the horizon, Katz has multiple artistic plans and ideas for how to create more honest, open conversations through art.

He plans to release a documentary about “The Home Project” in about a year, and the creative hopes to raise enough funds in the future for more conversations across Oregon, or even nationally.

“I would really love to know that we’re able to secure funding for a scaled version of this that could be not just regional, but statewide,” he said.

Those interested in supporting Katz’s work can donate to his nonprofit, the Heartisan Foundation, at [heartisan.foundation/donate](http://heartisan.foundation/donate).

He also takes donations through Venmo at the username [heartfdn](https://venmo.com/heartfdn) and on PayPal at [Abram@heartisan.foundation](mailto:Abram@heartisan.foundation).



Abram Katz is the creative lead for the collaborative portrait and storytelling initiative, “The Home Project: Creating a Culture of Belonging,” focused on humanizing homelessness and economic displacement in Southern Oregon. (ARK PHOTOGRAPHY/COURTESY PHOTO)

“This project asks people to slow down, listen, and recognize themselves in one another,” Katz said. “The work is ultimately about smashing biases and creating a felt sense of belonging.”

To learn more about Katz, visit [abramkatz.com](http://abramkatz.com).

Reach reporter James Sloan at [james.sloan@rv-times.com](mailto:james.sloan@rv-times.com).

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