

Aid is Coming: Grief and Hope campaign will help artists impacted by wildfires

By Ed Condran, Pasadena Weekly Contributing
Jan 16, 2025



Grief and Hope is a GoFundMe campaign for artists devastated by the raging wildfires.

(Andrea Bowers/Submitted)

Andrea Bowers' actions are the epitome of empathy. Bowers is one of two artists, the other is Kathryn Andrews along with three art patrons, Olivia Gauthier, Julia V. Hendrickson, and Ariel Pittman, who have established "Grief and Hope." The GoFundMe campaign is for artists who have been devastated by the raging wildfires.

Bowers, who lives in Highland Park, wasn't touched by the blaze, yet her heart goes out to her peers, who have lost everything. "It's beyond terrible," Bowers said. "Kathryn Andrews is one of the artists who lost her home. This is the second time that Kathryn lost a home to fire. There are so many artists who not only lost their homes or the studios or their artwork but also their materials. There is no alternative but to help them."

Devastated artists must fill out a relief form to apply for "Grief and Hope" aid. About \$160,000 has been raised so far, but Bowers hopes that much more is donated. "So far we have 70 artists who have asked for help," Bowers said. "The amount each will receive will be pretty small when you divide it by 70. That will be just over \$2,000 each. That's just not enough. We're encouraging everyone to help."

Bowers, 59, is particularly upset about how the wildfires walloped the Altadena arts community. “It’s really hard for me since Altadena has been a wonderfully creative community for many years,” Bowers said. “Altadena has been an incredible cultural producer. The artists there have been devastated. We need to do all that we can to help Altadena, which was once this beautiful community.”

The Ohio native, who moved to Southern California in 1990, has experienced her share of natural disasters.

“I think going through the (Northridge) earthquake (in 1994) when everything shut down and the freeways collapsed, that was an awakening,” Bowers said.

“The system as we know it can completely collapse and there won’t be immediate help. What we need in times like these is to come together as a community and support those in need. I’m not looking to get political. I just want to get people money and to help with housing because we’re dealing with survival. I really believe in community and helping each other.”

The support has moved Bowers. An art gallerist recently contributed considerably to the “Grief and Hope” campaign. “Someone who just moved here gave a substantial donation,” Bowers said. “She was in tears and said that this (Altadena) is the most special art community in the world and she just wanted to take care of this most special community.”

The initial goal for the “Grief and Hope” campaign was \$500,000, but Bowers hopes to exceed that sum. “We need to come up with as much aid as possible.”

Grief and Hope

To contribute, go to bit.ly/GriefandHope

Instagram: [artworldfirereliefLA](https://www.instagram.com/artworldfirereliefLA)Quod