

Vallejo is grateful for ...

Steve Dunsky

Place of birth: New York City

Year arrived in Vallejo: In 1999 the U.S. Forest Service regional office moved to Mare Island, and with it my job. In 2004 my wife Ann and I bought a house in Vallejo and moved here fulltime.

Occupation: Filmmaker with the U.S. Forest Service.

Language: English

What is your most important contribution to Vallejo? The Visions of the Wild Festival, which I began in 2014. From the

start it was a large and successful undertaking! visionsofthewild.org

What have you done during the pandemic to help others? Visions of the Wild Festival continued with online projects and exhibits (38°N, a project connecting artists, scientists and adventurers who live at the same latitude as Vallejo, and the Global Recycled Plastic Art Challenge).

What is one pandemic silver lining? We were able to expand the geographic reach of the Visions of the Wild Festival through tools like Zoom.

What is your special talent? I am good at connecting people. The purpose of Visions of the Wild is "connecting nature, culture and community." I help bring the arts and conservation communities together.

What do you appreciate about your Vallejo neighborhood? The Vista neighborhood is a great place to walk. An afternoon stroll will be short on distance and long on conversation as we bump into friends and neighbors.

What is a favorite place to hang out in Vallejo? For several years, I volunteered to program films for the Empress Theatre Film Club. I enjoyed hanging out at the theater and the adjoining lounge during our events.

What is your favorite food or drink at a Vallejo establishment? I like the taco trucks, Moschetti's coffee (House Blend and Obama Blend) and Napoli's Pizza.

What do you hope for yourself and Vallejo in the next 10 years? Sadly, we will be leaving Vallejo next year. We are moving to the East Coast, where I grew up. I plan to return often to Vallejo and watch its progress. I have high hopes that downtown Vallejo will experience an economic upturn while retaining its funky bohemian (and affordable) edge. I hope that Mare Island will be an exemplar of sustainable development with close ties to the rest of Vallejo.

What person in Vallejo do you really appreciate? Shannon & Kathy O'Hare, Tim & Susan MacDonald, Kay Flavell, Jim Kern, Karen Finley, Bob & Ramona Sampayan, the Farrells (Brien, Kathy, Moira), Richard Fisher, Trevor Allen & Karen McKeivitt, Robin Gross & Ken Mullen, Francesca Demgen, Mel Orpilla, Erin Bakke, Sarah Nichols, Katy Miessner, Ravi Shankar, Brendan Riley, Brian O'Reilly & Jill Cook, Nancy Piotrowski, Gary Cullen, Laurie Guest, Steve Souza, David Belef, Rue Mapp, Hannah Dunton, Myrna Hayes, Miranda Hutten, Ken Szutu, Dragana Dragicevic-Monson, Cynthia Bettini, and so many others that I regret leaving off this list. What I love about Vallejo is how many people are devoted to building community and making this a better place for all of us.