

# Shannon & Kathy O'Hare

Vallejo is grateful for...



Kathy and Shannon stand in front of one of their obtainium contraptions.

**Place of birth:** Berkeley / San Francisco

**Year arrived in Vallejo:** 2009

**Occupation:** Artist / Acupressure. Owners of Obtainium Works studio.

**What is your most important contribution to Vallejo?**

We have brought a lot of creativity to Vallejo through our artwork, especially the art cars featured in the Mad Hatter Parade. We also were instrumental in getting the Second Friday Art Walk funded by the City of Vallejo and have spent 7 years helping to manage the event with the Solano County Arts Council.

**What have you done during the pandemic to help others?**

We had rotating art on the roof of Obtainium Works called Dodo Wisdom. It was definitely politically motivated, but also allowed us to have some fun with the pandemic. We entered the Creep the Streets

contest and gave families a safe way to celebrate Halloween. And we started a jigsaw puzzle exchange in front of our studio.

**What is one pandemic silver lining?** It gave us both the time to accomplish a number of remodeling projects.

**What is your special talent? Shannon:** My ability to turn "obtainium" (industrial debris) into art, including whimsical vehicles and sculptures. **Kathy:** My talent at Obtainium Works is "cat wrangling" which is our fun way of describing how I keep the crew and Shannon focused on projects.

**What do you appreciate about your Vallejo neighborhood?** We love the downtown neighborhood because there's always something fun happening, lots of art events, and some of the nicest people are within walking distance.

**What is a favorite place to hang out in Vallejo?** Mare Island Brewing Company at the Ferry Building because it is a great place to meet friends and have excellent artisan beers, delicious food and one of the best views on the waterfront.

**What is your favorite Vallejo community event?** The Mad Hatter Festival and Parade. We manage the parade part of the festival and also think it's one of the best things going on in Vallejo. It's unusual, exciting, and a great cultural event since many local groups and schools perform in it.

**What is your favorite food or drink at a Vallejo establishment?** Sardine Can: Captain's Platter; Mare Island Brewing Company: Hydraulic Sandwich.

**What do you hope for yourself in the next 10 years?** To keep creating art that is inspiring, fun, and entertaining while working with community groups to expand art into all neighborhoods.

**What do you hope for Vallejo in the next 10 years?** We hope that new development on the island and in the city will bring jobs and opportunity for all of our citizens. We also hope to end the violence and disproportional opportunities for our neighbors, especially people of color.

**What organization in Vallejo do you really appreciate?** The Vallejo Arts Alliance, which was created by local artists. The VAA started the Second Friday Art Walk, the Downtown Art Window Display, murals at La Clinica and 301 Georgia, the Art & Architecture Walk, a number of sculptures, and the painted utility boxes.