

Press Release

For Immediate Release

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Images available



GRASS ROOTS

Cannabis from Prohibition to Prescription

**Explore the Long History of Cannabis in
*Grass Roots: Cannabis from Prohibition to Prescription***

Exhibition on View June 16 – September 15, 2019

Curated by Eric Stanley and Brian Applegarth

(SANTA ROSA, CA)- May 21, 2019 – Is it the devil’s weed, a remarkable remedy, or just something to be enjoyed with friends like a glass of wine? Cannabis use generates strong, often divided opinions, but its story is undeniably significant. While cannabis has been part of human history for thousands of years, in the last 125 years it has gone from legal to illegal in California and back again, with California serving as a leader in its prohibition and legalization. From its common use in American medicines over a century ago, to its prohibition, to the passionate advocacy for its legalization during the AIDS crisis, explore the long history of cannabis in ***Grass Roots: Cannabis from Prohibition to Prescription***. The exhibition will open on **June 16, 2019**, with an **opening reception on June 15, 2019**.

“We’ve been considering this exhibition for about eight years,” said co-curator, Eric Stanley. “Before and after the legalization of medicinal marijuana in 1996, Sonoma County has played a significant role with dispensaries, medical marijuana advocates, activists, and others in a rapidly evolving environment. Then with the passage of prop 64 and the legalization of recreational use, the pace of change has only accelerated. This exhibition was conceived to capture the story of what lies behind or beneath these rapid changes, which were decades in the making. No matter where you stand on cannabis, it’s important to know the evolution of this issue.”

Though it has been part of human history for thousands of years, cannabis has recently become part of our society in new ways. For over a century, cannabis was prohibited and kept in the shadows, but that changed to a large degree in 1996 with a groundbreaking California law that made the use of medicinal cannabis legal. The move

from prohibition to prescription did not happen overnight. It was the culmination of decades of grassroots activism that began in the 1960s, when cannabis first emerged as a defining element in the culture war. With its legacies of agriculture and back-to-the land, as well as its position between the Emerald Triangle and San Francisco, Sonoma County has played a significant role in the story of cannabis, its emergence as legal medicine, and, more recently, as a multi-billion dollar industry.

“Time passed, things evolved, and now the time is right to share this history with our Sonoma community and the greater Bay Area,” said co-curator Brian Applegarth. “Sonoma is defined by its close relationship with nature, agricultural roots, and experimental communities. Cannabis as a symbol and a plant has shaped our northern California culture and this exhibition provides context around its journey and influence.”

“We’re not advocating a side or taking a position in this exhibition,” said Stanley, “but trying to tell a story that is worth telling and that is relevant now. What we are saying is that this is an important issue, one that we need to understand and discuss. The Museum is a great forum-- a place to take the long-view and talk about our history and culture.”

This exhibition is generously supported by Mercy Wellness, CannaCraft, Fiddler’s Green, Lagunitas Brewing Company, Rogoway Law Group, and Sonoma Patient Group.

For more information: <https://museumsc.org/grass-roots/>

Programs and Events

Opening Reception

Saturday, June 15, 2019

4:00 – 6:00pm

Free with General Admission

Book Talk: Jonah Raskin's *Dark Day, Dark Night: A Marijuana Murder Mystery*, with Liz Thach

Wednesday, June 26, 2019

7:00 – 8:30pm

Free for museum members; \$10 prepaid; \$15 at the door, \$5 students with ID

Programs subject to change. Please check our website for the most current information. Additional public programs related to the exhibition will be posted on our website: www.museumsc.org/events.

About the Museum of Sonoma County

Located in Downtown Santa Rosa on Seventh Street between A and B Streets, the Museum of Sonoma County (MSC) presents exhibitions of modern and contemporary art and local and regional history. MSC is open year-round with changing exhibitions, public programs, school tours, and education programs. MSC preserves and manages a regional art and history collection of over eighteen thousand objects, the region's largest object documentation of Sonoma County's history and culture.

Mission

The Museum of Sonoma County engages and inspires our diverse community with art and history exhibitions, collections, and public programs that are inclusive, educational, and relevant.

Smithsonian Affiliate

The Museum of Sonoma County has been a Smithsonian Affiliate since 2009. Smithsonian Affiliations establishes long-term partnerships with museums, education and cultural organizations to facilitate the loan of Smithsonian artifacts and traveling exhibitions, as well as to develop innovative educational collaborations locally and nationally. Created in 1996 by an act of the Smithsonian Board of Regents, the program is overseen by the Smithsonian's Assistant Secretary for Education and Access and is one of the pillars of the Institution's national outreach efforts. There are more than 200 Smithsonian Affiliates in nearly every state, Puerto Rico and Panama. Affiliates represent the diversity of America's museum community—size, location and subject—and serve all audiences. More than 8,000 Smithsonian artifacts have been displayed at Affiliate locations for the past 20 years.

Museum of Sonoma County

425 Seventh Street
Santa Rosa, CA 95401
707-579-1500
www.museumsc.org

Admission

Adults: \$10.00
Students and Seniors: \$7.00
Museum Members: FREE
Children 12 and under: FREE

Museum Hours

Open: Tuesday through Sunday, 11:00am - 5:00pm
Closed: Mondays

Closed on the following holidays: New Year's Day, President's Day, Easter Sunday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Friday after Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve, Christmas; please visit our website for additional closures

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