

A photograph of a sunset over the ocean. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright orange glow and a reflection on the water. A single bird is flying in the sky above the sun.

# LOCAL EMERGING ARTISTS PROGRAM

*Photograph by Michael Huggan*

*Making the LEAP Possible  
for Monterey County Artists*



## PROGRAM GOALS

Our goals are to recognize artistic excellence, provide direct support to artists who demonstrate they are ready to take their work to a new level, and cultivate public appreciation of the role of artists in our community.

## WHAT IS AN EMERGING ARTIST?

Grants are limited to professional artists in the early stages of his or her career. Applicants will demonstrate the quality of their work including evidence of a rigorous approach to creation and production. They must also demonstrate some experience with exhibitions or performances.

## CATEGORIES OF AWARDS

Grants up to \$2,500 will be awarded annually in visual arts, and performing arts and on a rotating schedule for literary arts, choreography, media arts and composing.

## MENTORS

Applicants are encouraged to apply with a support letter from a mentor. The Arts Council may also be able to assist in matching mentors and applicants. Mentors receive a stipend.

## SELECTION PROCESS

Three expert panelists will assess each application — which will include an overview form, an essay from the applicant, 10 images of work, and — if available — a support letter from the proposed mentor.

Scoring will be based on the following:

Quality: Artistic quality, originality and technical skills — 80%

Impact: Community, Professional and Personal — 20%



## Why LEAP NOW???

All over Monterey County, talented artists in every discipline are discovering new opportunities to take the next step in their career - their first solo exhibition, their chance at a national competition, an invitation to create an original dance or produce their first play.

Yet few have enough resources to take that next step. Grants are limited to organizations and loans are rarely available. Up until now, the funding has been just out of reach —putting promising careers for local residents in jeopardy.

To fill this critical gap, the Arts Council for Monterey County is joining a movement around the state and across the country.

**The Emerging Artists Support Program** will provide selected artists financial support and mentorship support — to take that next step and to take that next step *further*.





This is certainly the best of "artist" sourcing I can imagine. Professional artists teaching and helping the next generation to fill our shoes one day. The wonder of what the next generation will bring to the table is great encouragement for me as an established artist. I want to do my part for the hope of mankind through art. Good stuff!

~Will Bullas



## LEAP SPONSORS

LEAP is made possible with generous support from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and the donors to the MC Gives! 2015 Campaign.

Take the LEAP with us! For donor information, please contact Executive Director Paulette Lynch .

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