Happy New Year! May 2018 be a year of more light, more healing and more opportunity for you and your family.

If you find yourself looking for ways to be more present or your days to be more full, consider getting more and more involved with the arts! For more inspiration and encouragement, join us for Champions of the Arts Gala 2018 at the Monterey Hyatt Regency Hotel and Spa. Read on for details and ideas.

Contact me anytime to share your own thoughts of how to increase our reach and deepen our impact.

On behalf of the youth and families, the Arts Council for Monterey County Board of Directors and staff would like to thank the following generous donors for their support in the MC Gives! Campaign. We look forward to sharing the final amount after the matching funds are in, but we can proudly report that we received a total of 64 donations, totaling more than $17,000!

Thank you again for partnering with us to support our award-winning Arts as Healing Intervention Program. Together we help hundreds of youth who need us most right now develop more confidence and make better choices for a safe and healthy future!
Future Audience Network Meeting  
Wednesday, January 24th, 9:30am - 11:00am  

Boys & Girls Clubs of Monterey County, 1332 La Salle Ave., Seaside  

Please RSVP to Klara at klara@arts4mc.org no later than Tuesday, January 23rd at 12:00pm  

**Featured Speaker:** Joe Livernois, Founder of Voices of Monterey Bay, website: vomb.org  

**FEATURED TOPIC**  
Voices of Monterey Bay (VOMB) is the new, not-for-profit bilingual news organization serving Monterey and Santa Cruz counties. It was launched in 2017 by veteran local journalists who believe the region needs a new journalistic vision, a central location for people who have been ignored by the traditional media to express themselves, and a way to report news from their neighborhoods. VOMB concentrates on investigative reports and dynamic storytelling.  

Joe will give us the inside scoop on how to make the most of the new Voices of Monterey Bay platform. He'll also provide instructive hints about how to catch the attention of media gatekeepers when trying to generate publicity for events, programs, etc. Sneak Preview: "Folks in the media these days are generally overworked and underpaid, and they look kindly on the professional press release and the promoter who isn't going to waste a lot of their time."

**ABOUT THE SPEAKER**  
Joe has been a journalist for the past 35 years, working at newspapers from Imperial Valley to Monterey County. He was a writer, editor, columnist and newsroom manager at the Herald until about five years ago. Joe co-founded Voices of Monterey Bay, a nonprofit, online news magazine. In addition to basic news and investigations, Voices of Monterey Bay offers its pages to new
writers and story-tellers, and conducts journalism training for high school and college students.

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**Join Us! - Saturday, February 3, 2018**

**Hyatt Regency Monterey Hotel & Spa | 5 - 9pm**

**CHAMPIONS OF THE ARTS GALA 2018**

- **Reg Huston**
  - Philanthropist

- **Ellen Martin**
  - Luminary

- **Andrew Jackson**
  - Professional

- **Walt DeFaria**
  - Lifetime Achievement

- **Rodolfo Silva Rielas**
  - Volunteer Leader

- **Angelica Muro**
  - Educator

- **S10 Treasures**
  - Nonprofit

To become a sponsor click the [Sponsorship packet](#)

To donate to our auction, click the [auction donation form](#)

For more details and tickets go to [arts4mc.org/champions](http://arts4mc.org/champions)

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**Join Us at the 2018 County-Wide Poetry Out Loud Competition!**

The Arts Council for Monterey County is pleased to announce the county-wide Poetry Out Loud competition on Saturday, February 10th. We encourage school communities, families, poetry lovers and interested members of the public to show support by attending this exciting annual event!

**Participating Schools:** Alisal High School, Pacific Grove High School & Santa Catalina School.

**When:** Saturday, February 10th, 1:00pm-2:30pm

**Where:** Soper Community Center, 220 Coe Avenue, Seaside, CA 93955

Poetry Out Loud helps high school students master public speaking skills, build self-confidence, learn about their literary heritage, and compete for more than $100,000 in awards.

Read this [article](#) about the power of Poetry out Loud in the classroom in the newest Education Week. “The article is an enthusiastic reminder - from an initially skeptical reporter - of the “powerhouse teaching tool” that is poetry recitation.”

To attend, please contact Karyn Lee-Garcia, Arts Education Coordinator, at 831-622-9060 x102 and/or karyn@arts4mc.org.

Learn more about Poetry Out Loud at [www.poetryoutloud.org](http://www.poetryoutloud.org)
Volunteer with The Champions!

The countdown is on for the Champions of the Arts Gala 2018! Please consider lending your time to us as we all support Youth Arts Education! Many hands are needed to support the gala, and celebrate the individuals and organizations that make our region the best in the world to live, work and play!

We have volunteer needs beginning 9:30 am and running all day long! Please take a moment to look over all our needs and find what suits you best! One hour, three hours, all day, we will take whatever time to have to give! You are also welcome to share with friends, family and all who you think might like to assist us on this most important day!

Each team/area will have a lead person to answer all questions and prepare you for your duties! If you have any questions, please email Austin Foster at austin@arts4mc.org or call Austin at (831) 622-9060 ext. 105. To sign up click on Gala

Grants for Greater Reach and Impact - Deadline February 15th!

Thanks to support from the Monterey County Board of Supervisors and the Economic Opportunity Committee, The David and Lucile Packard Foundation and the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, we offer a number of options.

1) County Arts and Culture Grants Program. Eligibility: All arts and culture organizations with 501(c)(3) status -- or a confirmed fiscal sponsor -- serving Monterey County residents. Cycle 2 Deadline: Spring - Feb 15. Click on application.

2) Local Emerging Artists Program / LEAP. Eligibility: Individual artists with three years demonstrated experience and fewer than ten years professional experience. Deadline: Feb 15. Click on application and guidelines. (Note that applicants may receive only one grant per year from any program.)

Purchase our 2018 Fine Art Calendars
Carmel: Carmel Art Association, River House Books; King City: Sol Treasures; Monterey: Cha-Ya, Monterey Museum of Art, Mythic Games; Moss Landing: Haute Enchilada; Pacific Grove: Alpha Stationers, Artisana Gallery, ArtWorks@Pacific Grove, Bookworks, Imagine Art Supplies, Marina Patina, Pacific Grove Art Center; Salinas: Destination Salinas, Ariel Theatrical; Watsonville: Kelly’s Books

Visit arts4mc.org/fineartcalendar to purchase the calendar and for more details.

Arts Council for Monterey County Launches Spanish Language website!

We are delighted to announce the update and relaunch of our Spanish language website. You can find us at arts4mc.org/es. Our goal with is to provide an easier way to learn about art organizations and arts & cultural programs in Monterey County in the Spanish language. Among the new features, the site contains integrated social media buttons for Facebook, Twitter and a Calendar of Events to connect our Spanish-speaking community with activities in our region. We will be constantly updating our content with helpful information, articles, blogs, newsletters, announcements, and success stories. We hope you find the new website fresh and modern.

This website is available to help promote YOUR programs and events! Please send us your events (English or Spanish) to Berniz@arts4mc.org. We will translate if needed and post to the calendar. For more information, please contact Berniz House, Community Outreach Coordinator, at Berniz@arts4mc.org.

¡Gracias!
Check Out Your Town TV Program:
Featuring Interviews with local artists and arts Leaders

To participate as a guest or guest host, send a note to paulette@arts4mc.org

Thanks to Access Monterey Peninsula and Mark Baer, producer.

Click on TV Program - Your Town for more videos

Monterey County Flag: Call for Artists!
Deadline: January 30, 2018

It’s an exciting time for art in Monterey County! The Board of Supervisors has called for the adoption of an Official County Flag. To do this, we are setting out a Call for Artists to partake by submitting an emblem that will become the permanent image for the County Flag. This an excellent opportunity for you or an artist you know to become part of history in Monterey County!

Please follow the link for more details and to submit your artist rendering: co.monterey.ca.us/countyflag

Monterey's premier women's choir, ARIA is announcing auditions for the 2018 Seasons of Jan - March and April - June. ARIA is looking for Amazing Women who want to join together to be in an amazing choir!

To schedule an audition, please click here. To learn more about this fantastic choir, and see what exciting things are in store, please click here.

Jerry Takigawa Wins 2017 Clarence John Laughlin Award

Jerry Takigawa’s Balancing Cultures portfolio was selected by juror Paula Tognarelli to win the New Orleans Photo Alliance 2017 Clarence John Laughlin Award. This award was created to support the work of photographers who use the medium as a means of creative expression. It honors the life and work of Clarence John Laughlin (1905-1985), a New Orleans photographer best known for his surrealist images of the American South.

The Clarence John Laughlin Award annually grants one $5000 prize and an exhibition in the NOPA gallery to a photographer whose work exhibits sustained artistic excellence and creative vision.
Helen Davis is the Curator of the Monterey Peace and Justice Center Art Gallery. The gallery has space for artists and photographers to highlight their work. The themes which represent the mission of the Center are: Peace, Nonviolence, Social Justice, Democracy, Diversity and Environmental Sustainability. You may leave messages at contact 889-7322 or montereyhelen@gmail.com

Does your organization want to make a difference through culture and creative expression? The California Arts Council wants to help! State arts funding saw a significant permanent increase this year. Greater investment equals greater opportunity to meet the demand for arts and cultural experiences across California. Click here to learn more about grants from the California Arts Council.

Did you know that you can support arts education when you shop online at Amazon.com? When you use this link: smile.amazon.com/ch/94-2805076, a portion of your purchase will be donated to the Arts Council.

The Arts Council for Monterey County's mission is to improve the quality of life for everyone in our region through the arts. For over 35 years we have served our community and through research and experience, we find over and over that "The Arts Are the Answer" to overcoming our communities' greatest challenges and achieving our region's greatest potential.

Thanks to our supporters and partners, we help bring high quality arts programs to more and more residents - including those who have historically had little access. Over the years, we have strengthened the capacity of all arts organizations and cultural groups to more effectively serve our families and we have influenced a broad range of leaders to incorporate the arts in their plans.