



• *Enriching the lives of our community through the arts* •

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GRANTS AWARDED TO LOCAL EMERGING ARTISTS IN MONTEREY COUNTY

[Seaside, CA - May 19, 2020] The Arts Council for Monterey County (Arts4MC) is proud to announce that we have awarded \$12,500 in Local Emerging Artists Program (LEAP) grants to six (6) local artists, thanks to the support of Pat Skinner, the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation and The David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

The Local Emerging Artists Program (LEAP) grant program was created 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. Maximum award size was up to \$2,500 based on the scoring of the application, artistic quality and community impact.

Recipients of the 2020 LEAP grants include Visual Artists Emily Hess, Alberto Vazquez, Cecelia Azhderian and Darlene Von Mashmeyer and Performing Artists Rio Garcia Ramirez and Camden Daly.

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. These grantees play a vital role in helping us fulfill our mission to improve the quality of life for everyone in our region through the arts.

"Nearly every application submitted during this grant cycle reflects organizational or individual adaptability during this time of pandemic. This evidence of flexibility reminds me that artists are especially suited to such times, because they possess overarching impulses to apply relevant, inclusive voices to imagery, score, verse, and choreography," states Marilyn Vierra, Arts4MC Board Member and Programs Team Chair.

The next cycle of Local Emerging Artists Program (LEAP) will open in the fall. Please visit arts4mc.org/grants for more information.

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The mission of the Arts Council for Monterey County (Arts4MC) is to improve the quality of life for everyone in our region through the arts. For more information, please email info@arts4mc.org