



Dear \*{{Informal Name}}\*,

With the Arts Council for Monterey County's 40th anniversary coming up in 2022, we are proud of the legacy of our work with the community – work that has only been possible with thoughtful supporters like you.

However, our work is not done yet: we want to reach even more children for arts education, we want to help more emerging artists find the support they need, and we want to be around to support the artistic community in Monterey County for many more years to come.

Our continuing work is more important than ever. Just ask teaching artist Paul Richmond:

*"When I first started teaching kids, it seemed like they were more comfortable with open-ended things. You give them a blank piece of paper and they would just start putting something on it. I've noticed a shift and now there's less creative curriculum in schools and more time spent*

*doing multiple choice questions. They're not really having to use their imagination a lot and they're a little bit more hesitant when they get that white piece of paper. Kids need more encouragement to know that it's okay to draw whatever they want on there.*

*What the Arts Council is doing is more than just helping kids learn how to make a pretty picture. It's really about helping students learn to problem-solve, think creatively, think outside of the box, trust themselves, and trust their own creative voice. That has a ripple effect throughout their whole life. I know that for myself and I think it's so important to make sure it's available for everybody."*

**I am thrilled to announce that this year we are formally launching The Legacy Circle to help ensure the longevity of our commitment to the arts. Especially this year, when so many of us have been challenged financially, The Legacy Circle is a way to support the Arts Council without affecting your income.**

**Legacy giving is for everyone, and we invite you to join us.** With the help of an advisor, you can name the Arts Council in a bequest, use your IRA, or participate in a number of other ways to ensure your own legacy supports the arts for generations to come.

You can visit [our website](#) to learn a little more, and please call or email me so we can chat further about how **The Legacy Circle** can benefit you while helping the arts in Monterey County for the next 40 years...and beyond!

With gratitude,



A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bella Hockersmith'.

**Bella Hockersmith**  
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