



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

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**COLLEGE ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS AWARDED TO MONTEREY COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL SENIORS**

(Seaside, CA - May 25, 2021) The Arts Council for Monterey County (Arts4MC) has awarded seven \$2,500 scholarships to graduating high school seniors pursuing a higher learning degree in an arts field. These scholarships are creating an investment in our students right at the beginning of their artistic and academic career, thanks to donations through Monterey County Gives!

This scholarship empowers local youth to achieve their dreams and contribute to the county's creative vitality and rich artistic heritage upon graduation. Career opportunities in creative fields are growing and varied, from design (graphic design, architecture) to digital arts (filmmaking, game design, photography), literature to performing arts to visual arts (including crafts such as ceramics).

"During this past critical year, we are so thankful to the amazing generosity of our community! The funding for these scholarships was raised through last year's Monterey County Gives! program with a larger and more diverse pool of donors, allowing us to increase the number of scholarships. This is definitely the time to support our youth in their career endeavors, and ease a little of the financial burden of a college education," states Jacquie Atchison, Arts4MC Executive Director.

Congratulations to 2021's Recipients of the College Arts Scholarships: Brooke Toomey (Salinas High School), Laurel Bowen (Pacific Grove High School), Leila Cheyenne Chappell (Carmel High School), Noelle Raneses (Soledad High School), Leanne Mae Lonto (Marina High School), Tawny Hoang (Soledad High School), and Zoe Blankenship (North Salinas High School).

"I am so thankful for this award and honor, and its recognitions like these that help me feel confident in pursuing my career goals of becoming a film director and cinematographer. I am ecstatic to announce that I will be transitioning from Salinas High School to Columbia University. I am so thankful for the Arts Council and all that they do to help support artists within our community such as myself," states Brooke Toomey, College Arts Scholarship Recipient 2021.

For future grant information visit [www.arts4mc.org](http://www.arts4mc.org).

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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](mailto:info@arts4mc.org).*

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