



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

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Contact: Jazmine Zavala, Marketing Coordinator  
Arts Council for Monterey County  
831-622-9060 x 106  
jazmine@arts4mc.org

**GRANTS AWARDED TO LOCAL EMERGING ARTISTS IN MONTEREY COUNTY**

**(Seaside, CA - May 31, 2022)** The Arts Council for Monterey County (Arts4MC) is proud to announce they have awarded \$12,500 in Local Emerging Artists Program (LEAP) grants to five (5) local artists, thanks to the support of the David and Lucile Packard Foundation.

Arts4MC created the Local Emerging Artists Program (LEAP) grant program to recognize artistic excellence, provide financial 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 is up to \$2,500 based on the scoring by independent grant panelists on the artistic quality and community impact of the application.

**Congratulations to our 2022 LEAP grant recipients: Visual Artists Vanessa Cowdrey (District 5), Esmeralda Orozco (District 2), Victoria Donahue (District 4); and Performing Artists Alejandro Gomez (District 4), and Justin Robinson (District 5).**

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.

“It is always exciting to learn about the projects these emerging artists are planning, from gallery exhibitions to music creation to live productions. Art crosses language and cultural barriers, making it a universal language we all can understand,” states Jacquie Atchison, Arts4MC Executive Director.

The next cycle of Local Emerging Artists Program (LEAP) will open in spring 2023. Visit [www.arts4mc.org/grants](http://www.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](mailto:info@arts4mc.org).*

**1123 FREMONT BLVD, SUITE C • SEASIDE, CA 93955 • 831-622-9060 • ARTS4MC.ORG**



VANESSA COWDREY



ESMERALDA OROZCO



VICTORIA DONAHUE



ALEJANDRO GOMEZ



JUSTIN ROBINSON