

Arts Connection Announces 2020 Arts Innovator Micro Grant Recipients



Grey Forge LeFey

Grey is a dramatist, performer, and an artist living in the Morongo Basin. Diversity and self-expression are of paramount importance in his work. "Life is never black and white, and not even shades of gray. It's all about the colors, baby!" He has been a foster parent and an advocate for individuals with special needs. Along with his husband, artist Khryss Heart LeFey, he works to celebrate and promote acceptance and equality for all people.

Project: "The Queens of the Basin Project" is a video documentation of the process of establishing a new chapter of Drag Queen Story Hour in the widely differing communities of the Morongo Basin in Southern California.



Amy Robbins

After working in the healthcare arena for over twenty-five years, Amy discovered the beauty in wood in 2019. She has gone from cutting wood slices to learning to power-carve burl bowls. Amy is especially passionate about working with rescued Chaparral root burls from our mountain community within the San Bernardino National Forest.

Project: Amy will broaden the range of her expression through wood sculpting with new tools such as an Arbortech power-carving tool and a contour sander that will enable her to carve deeper.



Jasmine Chan

Jasmine was born and raised in San Bernardino; using photography and poetry to understand the world since high school. She attends Pasadena City College double majoring in Ethnic Studies and Photography. Her work explores the intersections of identity and how people navigate themselves within the world, and within their relationships to reality.

Project: Jasmine will build her own darkroom and create a book through hand developed prints about framing one's identity. She will create boxes/life size metal frames and paint backdrops that symbolize the way society often frames the folk she takes portraits of and the way they frame themselves.



Ryan Perez

Ryan Perez is an artist who works with photography. He makes images that engage the social landscape and the constructed still life. His work has been exhibited throughout the US and internationally. Currently, he is working on a book of photographs, *In the way of seeing through*. He lives in Ontario and teaches art and photography at ArtCenter College of Design.

Project: Ryan will make an artist book that takes its historical precedence from a trajectory rooted in Alfred Stieglitz' Camera Works, a photography publication from the early part of the 20th century.



Candace Pearson

Candace is a poet and freelance writer living in Crestline, CA. A multiple Pushcart Prize nominee, she founded "Pop-Up Poetry" in 2019 to build community through poetry. Her full-length collection, "Hour of Unfolding," won the Liam Rector First Book Prize for Poetry from Longwood University. Her poems have appeared in journals and anthologies nationwide.

Project: Pop-up, interactive poetry event intended to build and nurture a literary community in Crestline and along the Rim, and to engage more people in poetry by making it accessible and fun.

For more information about the funded projects or the micro grant program, please contact the Arts Connection office at info@artsconnectionnetwork.org or by phone at 909.381.1900

