



SACRAMENTO REGION COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

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New Fund Established for Local Visual Artists First Awardees Announced

Sacramento, Calif., (1/29/2014) – The Leff-Davis Fund for Visual Artists announced its first-ever award recipients, following its purpose to support serious aspiring professional artists in the advancement of their careers through a monetary award for the creation of original art. In the fund's inaugural year, awards of \$5,000 each were given to local artists Bryan Valenzuela and David Lane in recognition of their exceptional talent and demonstrated ability, based on panel recommendations.

Retired pathologist and avid art collector Dr. Emily Leff established the fund at the Sacramento Region Community Foundation to support local visual artists on an individual level – especially emerging artists who have demonstrated professional commitment to their work.

Dr. Leff chose to work with the Foundation because of its reputation for professional grants management.

“For many years, I have wanted to create something lasting that would recognize artists for their essential contribution to our culture, and also help them financially to create art. I chose the Foundation to help me realize this longtime ambition because of their superior experience and outreach in the Sacramento Region,” said Leff.

Awardee [Bryan Valenzuela](#) graduated from California State University, Sacramento with a Bachelor of Arts in Art Studio. For over a decade, the overlying focus of his work has been perfecting a particular technique of drawing using handwritten text with pen and ink with the use of varying large and often minuscule text to carve out shape and shading within the drawing. He plans to use the funds to offset studio and promotion costs.

[David Lane](#) spent 10 years in independent study of art at California State University, Sacramento after graduating from CSU Fresno with a bachelor's in Surveying and Photogrammetry. Until now, his projects have been self-funded, and the Leff-Davis Fund will help complete his current project, which includes contemporary versions of traditional totem poles made with industrial materials.

“The Foundation was very pleased to be able to offer this fund to the visual artists community, and see this inaugural launch as a groundbreaking opportunity to benefit the rich and diverse field of visual artists in the Sacramento region,” said Chief Giving Officer Priscilla Enriquez.

For more information, contact Shirlee Tully at shirlee@sacregcf.org or (916) 765-9000.

About the Foundation: The Sacramento Region Community Foundation is an advocate for quality of life, dedicated to connecting people who care with charitable causes. An effective steward of the region's charitable assets since 1983, the Foundation's mission is to serve as a leader and trusted partner in expanding philanthropy and enhancing its impact in our community. From charitable funds established by individuals, families, businesses and organizations, the Sacramento Region Community Foundation awards grants and engages in leadership activities to address a wide variety of current and long term community issues. For more information, visit www.sacregcf.org.

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