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Arts & Business Council of Greater Nashville Announces the 2020 Class of *Periscope: Artist Entrepreneur Training*

25 talented artists selected for the program's seventh year

NASHVILLE, TENN. – March 19, 2020 -- The Arts & Business Council of Greater Nashville proudly announces the selection of the 2020 class of *Periscope: Artist Entrepreneur Training*, an annual program that empowers working artists to see their creative practice through an entrepreneurial lens. This year's class consists of 25 artists working in an array of disciplines including visual art, photography, filmmaking, spoken word, music, dance, and more.

Artists are chosen for *Periscope* through a competitive application process and scored by a panel of community reviewers that includes leading artists, curators, musicians, and creative entrepreneurs in Nashville's arts, culture and business sectors. Selected artists participate in eight weeks of entrepreneurial training followed by six months of individualized mentorship by high-caliber business mentors. The program culminates at the *Periscope Pitch + Artist Entrepreneur Showcase* in September where artist entrepreneurs unveil their creative businesses to the community.

Previously, *Periscope* training sessions have only been offered in-person. With current public health recommendations to limit gatherings of 10 or more people, the Arts & Business Council pivoted to offering trainings online for at least the first three weeks of the eight-week training portion.

"With the many cancellations and closures happening every day, we're grateful to be able to fulfill the commitment we've made to these artists to help them achieve their goals," said Jill McMillan Palm, Executive Director of the Arts & Business Council. "I'm proud that our team was able to pivot so quickly, and we can provide an outlet for this year's *Periscope* cohort to learn, connect, and build community in new and exciting ways while keeping community safety top of mind."

"With so many of us practicing social distancing, something we should all be doing, we hope that bringing these artists together online will allow them to feel a sense of community even when we can't be together in

person,” said Jonathan Harwell-Dye, Program Manager for the Arts & Business Council. “Most of all, we’re excited about the enthusiasm of this year’s class and their willingness to go on this digital adventure with us!”

The 2020 Class of *Periscope* is:

- Akil Prince, jeweler
- Alison Brazil, musician
- Amanda Danner, filmmaker/videographer
- Amanda Ewing, luthier
- Amy Frederick, musician
- Annette McNamara, photographer
- Ayumi Bennett, illustrator & visual scribe
- Brandie Lee, painter & printmaker
- Cameron Mitchell, poet, writer & actor
- Carolyn Beehler, paper artist
- Eileen Tomson, painter
- Elan Kandel, artist & designer
- Emma Levitz, artist & stone carver
- Heather LeRoy, photographer, director & actress
- Jacquelyn Swift (J.Swift), poet, playwright & author
- Jammie Williams, sculptor & painter
- Jennifer Deafenbaugh, digital artist & metal sculptor
- Jenny Petite, photographer
- Jillian Frame, artistic director
- Mel Ferrer, graphic designer & sculptor
- Nick Drake, a.k.a. Chuck iNDigo, musician
- Nicole Ahima, dancer
- Patty McAvoy, designer
- Rachel Bartek, glass artist
- Sara McCloud, seamstress & fiber artist

Now in its seventh year, *Periscope: Artist Entrepreneur Training* is a program of the Arts & Business Council of Greater Nashville in partnership with the Nashville Entrepreneur Center, Metro Arts: Nashville’s Office of Arts + Culture, the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, and the Mayor’s Office of Economic & Community Development. *Periscope* is supported in part by Southwest Airlines and the Tennessee Arts Commission. For more information, visit www.abcnashville.org/periscope.

About the Arts & Business Council

The Arts & Business Council of Greater Nashville leverages and unites the unique resources of the arts and business communities to create a thriving, sustainable creative culture in Nashville.

We accomplish this through five main programs: Volunteer Lawyers & Professionals for the Arts, *Periscope: Artist Entrepreneur Training*, Fiscal Sponsorship, Education for the Creative Community, and Arts Board Matching, among many other resources and opportunities.

For more information, visit www.abcnashville.org or contact 615-460-8274.

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Please see the attached artist bio document for more information about this year’s class. Photos of *Periscope* participants are available upon request.