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## Arts & Business Council awards \$5,000 in cash and prizes for *Periscope Pitch* at annual *Creative Exchange* conference

*Rachel Bartek, Kayla Jenkins, Ayumi Bennett, Mel Ferrer, Emma Levitz and Kayla Jenkins cinch top awards*

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (October 9, 2020)—The [Arts & Business Council of Greater Nashville](#) is pleased to announce the winners of the 7<sup>th</sup> annual *Periscope Pitch*, the culmination of this year’s [Periscope: Artist Entrepreneur Training](#) program, presented in partnership with the Nashville Entrepreneur Center, Metro Arts, Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce, and Mayor’s Office of Economic Development.

After eight weeks of intensive training and six months of one-on-one mentorship, the 2020 cohort of *Periscope* artist entrepreneurs showcased their creative businesses via the *Periscope Pitch*. The process began this summer when each *Periscope* artist had the opportunity to film their presentations safely and physically distanced at Studio 615. Those recorded videos were released in weekly batches on the Arts & Business Council’s [YouTube Channel](#) throughout September. Pitches were scored remotely by a panel of expert judges for their business acumen, artistic excellence, and overall presentation effectiveness. This year’s judges were Richard Upchurch, owner of [BrandNewNoise](#); Monchiere’ Holmes-Jones, owner of [MoJo Marketing + PR](#), and Sondra Noble, owner of [Hip Hues](#).

In first place, with a \$1,500 cash award, is [Rachel Bartek](#). Rachel is passionate about the product and performance of glassblowing, and she plans to open a center for glass art in Nashville where a team of artists will engage the public through workshops, demonstrations and other glass experiences. Discover how you can get involved and experience the “fire magic” of glassblowing for yourself at: <https://rachelbartek.carbonmade.com>.

In second place, there was a three-way tie between [Ayumi Fukuda Bennett](#), [Mel Ferrer](#), and [Emma Levitz](#), who won \$1,000 each. Ayumi is an information illustrator who turns your knowledge into art on the spot. She believes, “Your wisdom is too important to this world to evaporate with the rest of the noise.” Learn more about her work at <http://ayumibennett.com>.

Mel Ferrer, founder and designer of Homage Urns, creates cremation urns designed to be contemporary works of art allowing us to “honor with art.” He is looking for a partner to help with fabrication and someone to help him with marketing to the funeral and end-of-life industry. Learn more at <http://www.homageurns.com>

Stone carver and visual artist Emma Levitz is the founder of Little Mountain Stoneworks, the banner under which she creates sculptural and functional pieces for the home using locally sources limestone and marble. Learn more about her work at <https://www.littlemountainstoneworks.com>

[Kayla Jenkins](#) won the third-place prize of \$500. She creates loud, colorful and expressive multimedia paintings. She has launched Genesis Community Arts Center, a [fiscally sponsored project](#) of the Arts & Business Council, to create an afterschool arts program for income-qualified students Learn more about Kayla’s work at <https://www.kaylajenkinsart.work>

The 2020 *Periscope: Artist Entrepreneur Training* cohort includes [Akil Prince](#) (jewelry), [Alison Brazil](#) (music education), [Amanda Danner](#) (film/video production), [Amy Frederick](#) (music), [Annette McNamara](#) (photography), [Ayumi Fukuda Bennett](#) (information illustration), [Cameron Mitchell](#) (poetry/creative workshops), [Carolyn Beehler](#) (paper art), [Eileen Tomson](#) (visual art), [Emma Levitz](#) (stone carving/visual art), [Heather LeRoy](#) (film), [J. Swift](#) (multimedia), [Jennifer Defeanbaugh](#) (metal work), [Jillian Frame](#) (theater), [Kayla Jenkins](#) (visual art), [Mel](#)



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[Ferrer](#) (contemporary urns), [Nicole Ahima](#) (salsa dance), [Patty McAvoy](#) (graphic design), and [Rachel Bartek](#) (glass-blowing).

*Periscope: Artist Entrepreneur Training* provides a cohort of artists with the tools to see their artistic vision through an entrepreneurial lens including training, exchange, mentorship, and exposure opportunities like the *Periscope Pitch + Artist Entrepreneur Showcase*. *Periscope* is supported by the Tennessee Arts Commission, Metro Arts, Piedmont Natural Gas, Southwest Airlines, and Studio 615. Applications for the class of 2021 open in early January at [www.abcnashville.org/periscope](http://www.abcnashville.org/periscope).

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### **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](http://www.abcnashville.org) or contact 615-460-8274.