

Arts Impact Grant Update 2020

The Arts Impact Grant Program is the second arm of the City of Lansing's Arts & Culture Grant program for FY2020. This grant program allows for an open pitch-style opportunity for anyone with a creative idea for a project in the City of Lansing can come and "pitch" their project to a panel of arts professionals for review to receive one \$75,000 grant for the completion of a large scale arts project with a suggested timeline of October 1, 2019 – September 30, 2020.

This pitch event took place in early December 2019 at the Michigan Institute for Contemporary Art in Old Town Lansing. The panel consisted of members of the Mayor's Arts & Cultural Commission, the executive director of the Arts Council of Greater Lansing, a teacher, artist and festival organizer, and marketing and promotional professionals in the greater Lansing region. They listened to all pitches and, after a period of review and follow-up with applicants, selected the Mosaic Tile Mural project as the best candidate for the FY2020 Arts Impact project for its strong community participation, community partnership opportunities, and leadership by a local artist with lots of tilework experience.

During a press conference in late February that took place right under the Shiawassee St. Bridge, the city announced the 2020 Arts Impact Project. The community mosaic mural, which will be installed along the 25 steps and a portion of the curved wall of the Shiawassee Street Bridge was awarded the \$75,000 Arts Impact project grant. Lead by local artist Alexandra Leonard, this is a collaborative project that will engage a number of area community partners and neighbors as part of its installation, which will include workshops where residents can create tiles to be incorporated in the project.

Grant Project: Artist Alexandra Leonard

Notes: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this project is still ongoing. In-person workshops and interactive tile-making opportunities were put on-hold for the better part of 2020 as in-person gathering was not allowed, especially not in close range, as would be required of a tile-making experience with Alexandra Leonard leading the experience and working with the participants on different techniques of carving the clay, as well as collecting the tiles once finished to preserve them properly before they have a chance to dry out. Alexandra is currently doing a small number of tile-making experiences in partnership with other events to allow for spacing out of individuals who wish to complete a tile.