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**ARTS COUNCIL ANNOUNCES REGIONAL ARTIST GRANT RECIPIENTS**

Wilmington, NC – November 8, 2017 - The Arts Council of Wilmington & NHC, in conjunction with arts councils in Brunswick and Columbus counties and with the support of the North Carolina Arts Council, has named the 2017-2018 Regional Artists.

The Regional Artist Project Grant Program is awarded annually to provide financial support for exceptional artists by funding a project pivotal to a career in their respective art forms. The regional panel considered 34 applications from artists in New Hanover, Brunswick, Pender, and Columbus counties totaling \$34,000+ and funded 17 projects.

“We’re thrilled to support the artistic careers of some of the region’s most promising artists. From equipment purchases to the production of new work, these artists proposed projects that will have a demonstrable effect on their work,” said Rhonda Bellamy, executive director of the Arts Council of Wilmington & NHC.

The RAPG is administered by the Arts Council of Wilmington and is funded through contributions by the NCAC and arts partners in Brunswick, Pender, and Columbus counties.

A list of the 2017-2018 Awardees follows. For more information, contact Rhonda Bellamy, grant administrator, at 910-343-0998.

Alicia Alexander  
Film  
New Hanover County  
Purchase hardware for post-production editing of "What the River Knows"

Sue Bark  
Visual Art  
New Hanover County  
To partially fund Postcards from the Coast, a plein aire series of paintings

Dennis Belcher  
Visual Art  
Pender County  
To attend woodworking workshops at Arrowmont

Justin Campbell  
Visual Arts  
New Hanover County  
Supplies to build a low melt kiln for iron casting

Kathy Irvine  
Visual Art  
Brunswick County  
To purchase a potter's wheel for in-home studio

Julia Walker Jewell  
Music  
New Hanover County  
To partially fund production costs for the short film "The Dance of the Coin"

Marie Kasper  
Visual Art  
Brunswick County  
To attend figurative drawing workshops

Justin Lacy  
Music  
New Hanover County  
To purchase a portable PA system

Joshua Marquez  
Music  
New Hanover County  
Production of solo album "Brackish Waters"

Jeremy Millard  
Visual Art  
New Hanover County  
Purchase materials to create 12 big block prints

Jamie Rowen/Stray Local  
Music  
New Hanover County  
To record a six-song studio album

Casey Scharling  
Visual Art  
New Hanover County  
To create a new body of work comprised of 12 medium and large paintings

Janet Sessoms  
Visual Art/Oil  
New Hanover County  
To attend workshop with nationally-known artist

Tina Smith  
Music  
Brunswick County  
Video production of an original composition

Elizabeth Spaulding  
Visual Arts  
Columbus County  
Planning/execution of solo art show

Melissa Story  
Visual Art  
New Hanover County  
Tuition to the Museum School at Cameron Art Museum

Kirah Van Sickle  
Visual Art  
New Hanover County  
Video equipment for online art instruction