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**Contact:**

Jonathan Harwell-Dye

*Director of Programs*

Arts & Business Council of Greater Nashville

615-460-8275 | [jharwelldye@abcnashville.org](mailto:jharwelldye@abcnashville.org)

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## **Arts & Business Council of Greater Nashville Announces the 2023 Class of *Periscope: Artist Entrepreneur Training***

*Celebrating 10 years of creative entrepreneurship with 25 talented artist entrepreneurs*

**NASHVILLE, TENN. – March 27, 2023** -- The Arts & Business Council of Greater Nashville proudly announces the selection of the 2023 class of *Periscope: Artist Entrepreneur Training (Periscope Nashville)*, an annual business development intensive that empowers working artists to see their creative practice through an entrepreneurial lens. In 2023, we are celebrating Periscope Nashville's 10th year of creative entrepreneurship! This year's class consists of 25 artists working in an array of disciplines including visual art, fashion, music, jewelry, and more.

Artists are chosen for Periscope Nashville 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.

"This year's class of Periscope artist entrepreneurs is comprised of 25 talented, diverse artists from a variety of disciplines who all demonstrate a high potential for business success in their creative endeavors," said Jonathan Harwell-Dye, director of programs for the Arts & Business Council. "They are also the tenth Nashville-based cohort marking a decade of ABC helping artists by treating them as the small business owners they are and by equipping them with the entrepreneurial skills to build successful businesses from their art."

The 2023 Class of *Periscope Nashville* is:

- [Alexa Lipman](#) (she/her) - Visual Art
- [Ariel Bui](#) (she/her) - Music
- [Asia Pyron](#) (she/her) - Dance

- [Beth Barnard](#) (she/her) - Visual Art, Sculpture
- [Brooke Hoffert](#) (they/them) - Public Art/Creative Placemaking, Visual Art, Curatorial Arts
- [Bryson Finney](#) (he/him) - Music
- [Cassy Laessig](#) (she/her) - Visual Art
- [Dalia Garcia](#) (she/her) - Visual Art
- Darius Montgomery (he/him) - Fashion/Textiles, Visual Art
- [Gina Sicilia](#) (she/her) - Music, Culinary Art
- [Grace Chee](#) (she/her) - Visual Art
- [Kayleigh Walder](#) (she/her) - Public Art/Creative Placemaking, Visual Art
- [Kristin Wiens Keyes](#) (she/her), Public Art/Creative Placemaking
- [Leroy Ramon Dawson](#) (he/him) - Visual Art
- [Lisa Jennings](#) (she/her) - Visual Art
- [Martha Morales Purucker](#) (she/her) - Visual Art
- Princella Smith (she/her) - Film/Television, Literary Arts
- [Renea Weston](#) (she/her) - Music
- [Sam Drapeaux](#) (they/them) - Visual Art
- Sharita Henderson (she/her) - Visual Art
- [Stephanie Graves](#) (she/her) - Visual Art
- [Susan Thornton](#) (she/her) - Jewelry/Metals
- [Thalia Ewing](#) (she/her) - Music
- [Tree Lily Butcher](#) (she/her) - Visual Art
- [Yamil Conga](#) (he/him) - Music

*Periscope: Artist Entrepreneur Training* is a program of the Arts & Business Council of Greater Nashville created 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 Nashville is supported in part by Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, Community Foundation of Middle Tennessee, Marlene and Spencer Hays Foundation, HCA Healthcare Foundation, Ingram Charities, Piedmont Natural Gas, Fifth Third Bank, Buckingham Foundation, Studio Bank, Southwest Airlines, Tennessee Arts Commission, and Tennessee Entertainment Commission. For more information, visit [www.abcnashville.org/periscope](http://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 six main programs: Education for the Creative Community, Volunteer Lawyers & Professionals for the Arts, Periscope: Artist Entrepreneur Training, Arts Board Matching, Fiscal Sponsorship, and Creative Advantage, among many other resources and opportunities.

For more information, visit [www.abcnashville.org](http://www.abcnashville.org) or contact 615-460-8274.

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**Headshots and bios for cohort members are available upon request.**