

April, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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presents:

The logo for the Monterey Ocean Arts Festival. It features a stylized rainbow arching over the word "MONTEREY" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below "MONTEREY" is the word "Ocean Arts" in a large, black, cursive script font, and "FESTIVAL" in a bold, black, sans-serif font below that.

“Through creativity and the arts, we invite the whole community to join us in raising their shared voices for ocean health and the future of our planet.”

Fran Spector Atkins, Founder of *Ocean Arts Festival: Monterey* and Director of SpectorDance

When: Sunday, May 21, from 1:00 – 3:30 pm

Where: Monterey Museum of Art, 559 Pacific St, Monterey, CA 93940

Cost: Free Admission

Goal: To utilize the power of creativity to inspire the next generation of ocean stewards.

What: A family-friendly event to learn about ocean science through art.

- See ocean-themed visual and performing art created by young artists up to 24 years old.
- Learn about local ocean science organizations through information tables and participate in ocean-themed art activities for all ages.
- Enjoy ocean-themed face painting by Lisa Ledin.
- Star in our short film (that will be recorded LIVE on the day!) by sharing your thoughts about ocean health with filmmaker from Hartnell College, Johnny Ray Avila!
- Hear recorded keynote remarks by renowned ocean advocates: Dr. John Holdren (Harvard University) and Julie Packard (Monterey Bay Aquarium)

Tormenta Taco Truck and Free Admission to the Monterey Museum of Art!

Thank you to our Major Sponsor



MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE OCEAN ARTS FESTIVAL: MONTEREY

SpectorDance is thrilled to present our third *Ocean Arts Festival: Monterey* at the Monterey Museum of Art on Sunday, May 21, 2023. This event will feature ocean-themed visual and performing arts from artists 24 years old and under, and local ocean science groups and experts! Our goals are to harness the power of creativity to promote a deeper understanding of ocean science and inspire commitments to ocean stewardship. We thank the following organizations for working with us to offer this unique opportunity to young artists and dynamic event for local families: Hartnell College's Film Department, the Elkhorn Slough Foundation, Pacific Grove Natural History Museum, Save Our Shore, and the Western Flyer Foundation x COAST.

The first *Ocean Arts Festival: Monterey* took place in 2019 at the SpectorDance Studio in Marina. The concept was borne from SpectorDance's project *Ocean Trilogy*, a performance and engagement program based on a 10-year collaboration with the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute. Here is a link to a 2-minute video about the first *Monterey Ocean Arts Festival*: <https://vimeo.com/351456057>

SpectorDance's original vision was for the *Ocean Arts Festival: Monterey* to be an annual event that would grow and attract both young and professional artists in all genres from around the globe. With Covid, we were not able to present the *Ocean Arts Festival* in 2020 or 2021. In 2022, we partnered with the Monterey Museum of Art to offer our 2nd *Ocean Arts Festival: Monterey*.

Spector Atkins states, "*We see this event as a celebration of the power of the arts to teach, inspire, and generate positive change in the world. Through multiple entry points, the festival will foster thought, conversation, and action, and stimulate participants to connect with their social and environmental impact through artistic expression.*

She explains, "*The Ocean Arts Festival exemplifies SpectorDance's mission, 'Creating & presenting dance that makes a difference' and vision, 'a world where everyone is connected, informed, & inspired through the beauty & power of dance.'* *The Ocean Arts Festival is new. The Ocean Arts Festival is growing. The Ocean Arts Festival is a collective inviting you to participate. The Ocean Arts Festival is joyous and optimistic. Together we can create beauty and change. Join us to raise our shared voices for ocean health and climate action.*"

VIDEO KEYNOTE REMARKS

DR. JOHN HOLDREN was President Obama's chief Science Advisor and Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy from 2009 to 2017. Dr. Holdren is currently a research professor at Harvard University, and was formerly the Director of the Woods Hole Research Center and the Teresa and John Heinz Professor of Environmental Policy at Harvard. Among his numerous honors are the MacArthur Genius Prize (1981) and most recently the National Academy of Sciences Public Welfare Medal (2022).

JULIE PACKARD is the executive director of the Monterey Bay Aquarium, which she helped found in the late 1970's. She is an international leader in the field of ocean science conservation, and a leading voice for science-based policy reform in support of a healthy ocean.

THE OCEAN ARTS FESTIVAL: MONTEREY WILL FEATURE VISUAL ART FROM STUDENTS OF:

- Youth Arts Collective
- Echo Valley Elementary School
- Monterey Bay Charter School
- Greenfield Arts Center
- And more.

PERFORMING ARTS FROM STUDENTS OF:

- Greenfield Arts Center Mariachi Band
- SpectorDance dancers perform with Youth Music Monterey
- Youth Music Monterey, Chamber Players, Brass Ensemble
- Pacific Grove High School
- And more.

SCIENCE INFORMATION TABLES AND ART ACTIVITIES LED BY:

- Elkhorn Slough Foundation, who works with government, community agencies, and other partners to protect the precious and scarce environment of the Elkhorn Slough National Estuarine Research Reserve.
- Pacific Grove Museum of Natural History, who inspires a diverse community to explore and conserve the natural and cultural wonders of the Central California Coast
- Save Our Shores, who fosters thriving and sustainable ecosystems in the Monterey Bay and surrounding habitats through equitable environmental action
- Western Flyer Foundation, who aims to stir curiosity by connecting art and science in the spirit of John Steinbeck, Ed Ricketts, and their journey on the Western Flyer.

THE OCEAN ARTS FESTIVAL: MONTEREY STEERING COMMITTEE INCLUDES: Fran Spector Atkins *Founder and Event and Performing Arts Coordinator*, Robert Burton *Science Coordinator*, Amy Byington *Marketing and Administration*, Darcie Fohrman *Advisor*, Marnie Glazier *Film Coordinator*, Alexis Han-Holdren *Administration and Marketing*, Maire McDermid *School and Visual Art Coordinator*, Ellen Martin *Event Planning and Visual Art Coordinator*, Kristy Uschyk *Science Coordinator*

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