

The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art to Receive Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts

(*San Luis Obispo, CA*)—The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA) has been approved for a \$10,000 Challenge America award to support its 2022 SLOMA Mural Project. The project is among 168 projects across America that were selected to receive fiscal year 2022 funding in the Challenge America grant category totaling \$1,680,000.

“The National Endowment for the Arts is proud to support arts projects like this one from the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art that help support the community’s creative economy,” said NEA Acting Chair Ann Eilers. “The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art is among the organizations nationwide that are using the arts as a source of strength, a path to well-being, and providing access and opportunity for people to connect and find joy through the arts.”

The NEA Challenge America award will support the creation of a commissioned mural on SLOMA’s exterior by artist Erin LeAnn Mitchell entitled *Calafia Was Here*. It is the second in a series of murals which cover all four sides of the museum’s building in downtown San Luis Obispo. Scheduled to change on an annual basis, San Luis Obispo Museum of Art selects emerging artists with diverse backgrounds from across the country.

Erin LeAnn Mitchell’s work, *Calafia Was Here*, references the fictional black warrior queen and the unrecorded histories of Black Americans in the West. The design is a nod to Erin’s existing textile practice and utilizes quilting motifs and ornamented designs. It will be painted by Mitchell with the help of two assistants beginning on February 3 and concluding on February 24.

“We are honored to have Erin’s work grace the Museum as the second in our mural series. Her works tell stories of Black femininity, perseverance, struggle, beauty, and pain, and will certainly inspire meaningful dialogue in our community,” stated Leann Standish, Executive Director of the San Luis Obispo Museum of Art.

For more information on other projects included in the Arts Endowment grant announcement, visit [arts.gov/news](https://www.arts.gov/news).

About San Luis Obispo Museum of Art

The San Luis Obispo Museum of Art (SLOMA) is the heart of the California Central Coast art community and a vital link to the cultural life of the region. It is dedicated to providing and promoting diverse visual arts experiences for people of all ages and backgrounds through exhibitions, education, creation, and collaboration. Located at 1010 Broad Street, on the west end of Mission Plaza in San Luis Obispo, California, admission to this 501(c)(3) public benefit nonprofit arts organization is free to all. More information can be found at www.sloma.org.