

# CAUSE CONNECTION

Connecting people who care to causes that matter

## LVCF Supports Bart Cooper's Heroes Exhibit and Program in the Lehigh Valley

The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation is proudly supporting Artist Bart Cooper's exhibit and related programs titled, "Heroes: My heroes actually have real superpowers," an installment of Cooper's powerful artwork depicting ten Black women and their impact on American and world history.

"When we saw the Heroes collection and learned more about Bart Cooper's efforts to engage and educate the community about the impactful roles powerful Black women have played throughout history—we were eager to help make it a success," said **Erika Riddle Petrozelli**, President and CEO of the Community Foundation. "We are so pleased that Faces International, in partnership with ArtsQuest and the United Way of the Greater Lehigh Valley were able to bring an exhibit that is so creative and powerful to our area. Bart Cooper's ability to generate conversations on social justice and equity by applying the lens of popular culture to illustrate the strength and resilience of these women is a 'superpower' onto itself—we couldn't be more impressed by this work."

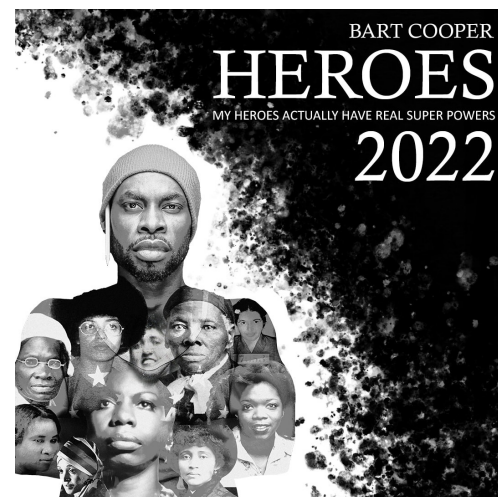
Through his work, Cooper strategically intertwines the real with the fictitious characters of modern-day heroism through the contemporary use of mixed media to create portraits of powerful black women, matching them to suitable

Marvel characters to highlight the connection between America's favorite comic characters, and the country's history of brave and important Black women leaders. "Their intelligence, their trials and tribulations, their willingness to lead shows strength and resilience. These people had powers and practiced them rigorously, and not only for themselves, but for others," says the artist, **Bart Cooper**.

The Heroes Exhibition which runs until May 22 at the Banana Factory is free and open to the public. The exhibit and related program are supported through sponsorship of Lehigh Valley Community Foundation and PPL Corporation, Crayola, and a number of other organizations. To learn more about the "Heroes" project, programming and artwork, visit [heroeslv.com](http://heroeslv.com).

### Creativity requires evolution

Barthelomew (Bart) Cooper is a Los Angeles based multidimensional contemporary artist born and raised in West Africa, Liberia. "I'm not just an artist, I'm a creator. I was put here to create. To challenge your physical, mental and spiritual growth. The foundation of my work is all about the message of love. Each individual piece has a conversation with the viewer's soul, provokes thought, changes the narrative, and inspires you to evolve. It's all about evolution."



# LVCF Engaging Creative Entrepreneurs with PCA Grants to Grow Businesses

Lehigh Valley Community Foundation recently issued grants from its Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator Program (CEAP) which matches eligible creative entrepreneurs with existing, free, local, small business consulting services and financial resources up to \$2,000 to help them grow their businesses, audiences, and revenue.



This new program at LVCF funded by the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts (PCA), a state agency under the Office of the Governor, and administered regionally by the Pennsylvania Partners in the Arts (PPA), PCA's statewide network of re-granting partners. The Lehigh Valley Community Foundation serves as the PCA's PPA partner organization for Carbon, Lehigh, Monroe, and Northampton Counties.

"We are so pleased to be the Pennsylvania Region 5 Partner in the Arts for the program," said **Megan Briggs**, Director of Community Investments at the Community Foundation. "Creative entrepreneurs are the engine that drives new economic development in the Arts, Culture, and Creative Economy, bringing both meaningful jobs and valuable creative services to the community. With these grants, we hope to support often underinvested in creative entrepreneurs in our region."

LVCF recently issued grants to 11 area creative entrepreneurs. "We are pleased to be able to grant this funding to small local

businesses that enhance our community through the arts and creative services," said **Monique Moreno**, LVCF Grants Associate. "We are helping creative entrepreneurs grow their business, audience, and revenue while advancing Pennsylvania Council on the Arts and the Community Foundation's overarching value of diversity, equity, and inclusion."

CEAP is open to all eligible applicants but is designed to prioritize investments in socially or economically disadvantaged creative entrepreneurs and those who are located in and whose work benefits low-income communities, as defined by the Small Business Administration. Applications to the Program will be accepted on a rolling basis.

To be eligible for the Program, individuals must: be at least 18 years of age and a current resident of Pennsylvania for at least one year; have annual gross revenue less than \$200,000; and be a creative entrepreneur intending to form a business or operating a business in Pennsylvania within one or more of the following creative industry areas: marketing; architecture; visual arts and crafts; design; film and media; digital games; music and entertainment; and publishing.

Creative Entrepreneur Accelerator Program grant funds must support business formation or development. Eligible uses of grant funds include activities such as research and development, purchase of supplies and equipment, and professional and business development fees.

Learn more about LVCF's Partners in the Arts (PPA) grant opportunities:



Contact  
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[PPA Grant Opportunities](#)

## Recent CEAP Grant Recipients

**Christine Raines**  
[Teeney Pieces](#)



**Erinne Finlayson**  
[Fin Media House](#)



**Jocelyn Russo**  
[Off the charts media](#)



**Jeffrey Frederick**  
[History Diggers](#)



**Keith Garubba**  
[Keith Garubba Art](#)



**Latoya Hutchinson**  
[Wicksquisite Candles](#)



**Jacob Young**  
[Fluentize](#)



**Michael Judkins**  
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**David Molloy**  
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**Terry Fasano**  
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