

SHORTCUTS

GIVING BACK



Photo: Kelli Uldall

Public Art Project Puts Gratitude on a Pedestal

BY RENEE BRINCKS

Leadership Carmel participant Barbara Dickason, with artist Simon Bull, who is one of the local artists contributing a piece to the “Heart of Carmel” exhibition.

Assisted by 10 Monterey County artists, members of the Leadership Carmel program have created a love letter to their community.

The “Heart of Carmel” exhibition, debuting June 19, will place 52-inch-by-52-inch fiberglass hearts outside of Carmel Plaza, the Carmel Woman’s Club, various government buildings and other Carmel-by-the-Sea locations. Graduates of Leadership Carmel, a nine-month professional development program that finished its first session in May, organized the public art display as a capstone project.

“This comes at a trying time for our neighbors and the nation. We wanted to thank community members and help local businesses at a time when everyone needs some love,” says

Leadership Carmel participant Barbara Dickason.

Local artists submitted proposals for the custom-painted hearts this spring, and plaques on each installation will feature artist and sponsor information. In late August, the hearts will be sold through an online auction that funds scholarships distributed by the Carmel Chamber and Carmel Woman’s Club.

“We really appreciate our community and this leadership opportunity, and this project is a way to give back,” says Dickason. “We initially thought this would reach a fairly local audience, but as the county opens up from the pandemic, we hope that more people will also experience the love.”

For Heart of Carmel and Leadership Carmel info, visit carmelchamber.org/leadership-carmel.