



Creative Sonoma Meeting Minutes

January 10, 2024

IN ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Gia Baiocchi, Amy Critchett, Erik Castro, Robert Mahar, Rani Goyal (virtual), Victor Ferrer(virtual)
Staff: Bernadette Marko, Debbie Yarrow, Tara Thompson
Absent: Samantha Kimpel

CALL TO ORDER

Gia Baiocchi welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Meeting Agenda was approved.

Motion: Erik Castro

Second: Amy Critchett

Vote: Unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes from November 2023 were approved.

Motion: Erik Castro

Second: Robert Mahar

Vote: Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

New Director Introduction

Creative Sonoma Director Tara Thompson introduced herself and shared her background and experience with board members.

FUND DEVELOPMENT

Thompson reported that we received a \$30,000 recommendation for funding from the NEA that would augment the Arts Impact Grant funding pool. We expect to receive official notice from the NEA on January 24, 2024 after which we will notify the applicants of award status.

COMMITTEE REPORTS | CRITICAL UPDATES

Nominating Committee

Baiocchi reported that the Nominating Committee will reconvene after members decide on a date and time to meet.

ART BREAK

Debbie Yarrow gave a presentation on Prop 28, Arts and Music in School Funding, and how Sonoma County will benefit from this funding.

PROGRAM REPORTS

Public Art

Thompson reported that she reviewed the draft plan and policy and has made some recommendations on what we present to the Board of Supervisors (BOS) and the timeline. One recommendation is to present a Master Plan to the BOS as a visionary/aspirational document to get them interested. We will work with Todd Bressi on any edits to the existing plan before presenting to the BOS. The soonest we can present the Master Plan is at the July BOS meeting. The Public Art Policy will be presented to the BOS later this year.

Thompson reported that we are slated to present five to six potential Fire Memorial sites to the BOS at their March 26 meeting. The sites will be presented with a rank and a narrative.

Grants Programs and Professional Development

Thompson reported that the grant funding from the NEA would increase the Arts Impact Grant pool to \$180,000. Applicants will be notified in late January of their award status. Final reports for the 2023 Arts Impact Grant are due January 31, 2024.

The 2023 Arts and Cultural Equity Fellowship (ACE) grantees will receive training and customized consulting in February from Favianna Rodriguez following their attendance at a one-day conference for BIPOC and LGBTQ creatives led by Kimzin Creative on January 27 on the topic of monetization of their work and financial management.

Samantha Kimpel is working with Raizes Collective and Sebastopol Center for the Arts to co-brand their public workshops. Their workshops will be targeted to individual artists, creatives and teaching artists. All workshops will take place between now and June 2024.

We've contracted with Amy Kweskin of Artsightful for professional development with our community arts centers. To date, Sebastopol Center for the Arts, Healdsburg Center for the Arts and Petaluma Arts Centers are participating. Arts centers can decide by January 12, 2024 to participate.

Arts Education

Yarrow stated that the nominations for the Sonoma County Arts Educator of the Year award are due on Friday, January 12, 2024. We currently have 31 nominations for 15 arts educators. The arts educator will be awarded \$500 and another \$500 towards classroom materials.

Creative Catalysts

Thompson reported that four of the catalysts are planning for the next gathering. They are interested in holding a convening for the warehouse district creatives and creative businesses in Petaluma.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:15pm

Motion: Erik Castro

Second: Robert Mahar

NEXT MEETING

March 6, 2024