



**Economic Development Collaborative
Creative Sonoma Update
December 2024**

PUBLIC ART

Fire Memorial

The finalist artists/teams for the Fire Memorial Public Art Project will be attending a site orientation meeting at Nagasawa Park, as well as an in-person interview with the Task Force on **December 12**. Once an artist is selected for the project, there will be opportunities for public participation. The first phase of their work will be a community engagement process to design the memorial, which will occur in early 2025. Staff is continuing to address the use of the park with the City of Santa Rosa. It is likely that a Park Master Plan Amendment will be required as well as a License Agreement between the City and County.

Public Art Plan

Staff is working with Todd Bressi on a strategy to facilitate a workshop with the Board of Supervisors in February 2025. Topics to cover will include: Why a Public Art Program? Why is using TOT funds a good fit? Scenario modeling – use sample projects to show how process would work, and how it would be different for different types of projects (capital vs community based). Governance structure – what are the benefits of a Public Art Committee? What role would a PAC have in a community project? Funding options – incremental budgeting/provide sliding scale of options.

ARTS EDUCATION

Do you receive the Arts Education Alliance newsletter? [Sign up here!](#)

Arts Education Framework Revision

The team met in mid-November for a final day of work to revise the current countywide arts education plan with needed updates and strategies. [Meeting slide deck](#). The team is comprised of several SCOE coordinators, CTEF, Windsor USD, Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, Creative Bridges, and Creative Sonoma. Creative Sonoma will meet with the team's facilitator in December and January to move the ideas into a draft. The plan is due to be completed by February.

Workforce Campaign

The [#TEACHtheARTS](#) campaign has been launched through Creative Sonoma and partner communication channels. [Here is a press release](#). High school, community college, and university students are invited to learn more about careers in the arts and arts education on February 1, 2025, at [College and Career Pathways in the Arts](#) Day at SSU. Creative Sonoma will share our strategies and materials at a statewide meeting of arts education leaders on Dec. 6.

Arts Educator of the Year

Creative Sonoma is partnering again this year with LBC to offer the [Arts Educator of the Year Award](#). Nominations are accepted through Jan. 17.

GRANT MAKING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2025 Arts Impact Grants for Organizations

Grant funding decisions were sent to the applicants on December 2, 2024. Of the 54 applications received, 45 organizations were recommended for funding with each grantee awarded \$4,000, for a total of \$180,000. Thirty grants are funded solely by Creative Sonoma for general operating support. The other fifteen grants are funded by the National Endowment for the Arts and matched by Creative Sonoma funding specific projects as detailed in the grantees' applications. We are excited to report that nine of the grants are going to first-time Creative Sonoma grantees, and five of those are eligible because we expanded eligibility to include culturally specific nonprofit organizations with arts programming. The new grantees are the Asian American Pacific Islander Coalition of North Bay, Datoire Foundation, Cafe Puente, Music in Place, North Bay Letterpress Arts, The Progressive Tribal Alliance, Petaluma Blacks for Community Development, Santa Rosa Urban Arts Partnership, and Sonoma County Taiko. A full list of the grantees will be available after the National Endowment for the Arts approves the fifteen project grantees and will be released by January.

BIPOC Producers Lab

Creative Sonoma partnered with Kimzin Creative to launch the BIPOC Producers Lab, an innovative, nine-month professional development program designed to foster the growth and success of two emerging Sonoma County-based BIPOC producers. Selected for the program are Dani DiAngelo and Nélide Samara, each receiving a \$1500 a month stipend (\$13,500 total) to support their participation. The Lab will provide workshops with industry professionals and direct mentorship for participants to gain foundational knowledge of artistic production and event production skills as event producers for [ASAMBLEA](#). Additionally, participants will have a budget of \$10,000 to conceptualize, develop, and produce their own artistic or cultural event for the community. This program is a reimagined continuation of the ACE grant program.

Professional Development Partners Program

As part of our Professional Development Partners Program, Sebastopol Center for the Arts launched the [SebArts Emerging Artist Incubator Program](#). The Program is designed to empower and support talented emerging artists on their journey to establish themselves as successful and sustainable artists by providing professional development. This comprehensive program encompasses various aspects of their careers, from artistic development to financial management and community building. SebArts will offer training to two separate cohorts, one in the spring and one in the fall. Creative Sonoma is seeking other Sonoma County arts and culture partners to present professional development workshops or trainings for their members or local stakeholders. Applications are currently being accepted through December 31.

2024 Cohort of Community Arts Center

Cohort members met at the Petaluma Arts Center in late November to tour the facilities and share concerns, strategies, and ideas. The cohort will meet again in February at the Cloverdale Arts Center. To spotlight our arts centers, Creative Sonoma is featuring an arts center from this cohort each month in our Creative Sonoma newsletter.