



**Economic Development Board
Creative Sonoma Update
February 2024**

PUBLIC ART

Fire Memorial

The Fire Memorial Task Force approved a list of 6 ranked sites to recommend to the Board of Supervisors for consideration. Developing criteria for site selection was a nuanced process for the Task Force, balancing between a number of complex and emotional factors such as accessibility and tranquility, proximity to burn scars versus a distance from fire reminders, catering to individual reflection or group commemoration. This led to a dual screening approach: evaluating the resonance of the site with project goals and hardscape considerations. Here is the list of 6 ranked sites: 1. Nagasawa Community Park, 2. Maddox Ranch Regional Park, 3. Sonoma Valley Regional Park, 4. Los Guilicos, 5. Paulin Creek Pathway, 6. Finley Community Center. The presentation to the Board of Supervisors is scheduled to take place on March 26.

Public Art Plan

Staff has been working on edits to the plan in consultation with Todd Bressi. The goal is to have a draft ready for review in March to gather stakeholder feedback. The presentation of the plan to the Board of Supervisors is currently scheduled for July 16.

ARTS EDUCATION

Workforce Development Committee

An Arts Education Workforce Action & Implementation Committee has been formed and will begin meeting to create a plan for arts ed workforce development.

Artful Conversations – A Community Engagement Project

The first Artful Conversation will be held via Zoom on May 14. The conversation will be focused on a foundational (and exciting) literary work called YOUR BRAIN ON ART: How the Arts Transform Us by Susan Magsamen and Ivy Ross. Experiences will be planned over time that community members can participate in as relates to the book.

Networking

The January AEA Mixer was attended by 32 folks with the North Coast School of Education chatting with attendees about credentialing. The weather was terrible, so we were grateful for any attendance. The next Mixer on March 27 will again be held at Mitote.

Poetry Out Loud

A County winner was named at the January 28 finals. Riley O'Hara from Sonoma Valley HS will participate in the in-person finals in Sacramento in mid-March. The audience turnout was larger than last year.

Support of District Arts Plans

A Community of Practice for District Arts Leadership Teams is planned for April 8. This 2nd CoP will bring teams together to compare notes and share strategies about implementation.

Prop 28

Implementation The California Department of Education held a webinar about Prop 28. They have proposed to offer more information through webinars. Creative Sonoma will schedule virtual office hours after these webinars to have a community talk back about what information was provided.

GRANT MAKING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2024 Arts Impact Grants for Organizations

The award notification for this grant program has been delayed due to the timing of our additional funding from the NEA, which we were officially awarded in early February. We expect to announce the grant awards by the end of February.

2023 Arts and Cultural Equity Fellowship Grants

The current 2023 Fellows Cohort participated in a training by Favianna Rodriguez on February 15, 2024. Fellows from the 2022 Cohort were also invited. The 2023 Fellows will each receive a one-on-one consultation with Favianna, which will conclude their fellowship. Announcement of the 2024 program will be available this spring.

Professional Development Partners

Sebastopol Center for the Arts and Raizes Collective are partnering with Creative Sonoma to present professional development series for individual artists and creatives. Upcoming: Sebastopol Center for the Arts has launched their artist entrepreneur incubator, deadline to apply was February 23, 2024.

Learning Cohorts

Amy Kweskin of Artsightful has been contracted to present a six-session series for our Community-Based Arts Centers for them to explore tools and methods to create (or refresh or explore) sustainable business and revenue models as well as operations plans. The series will take place February 29 – May 9, 2024. Presently arts centers of Petaluma, Sebastopol, Healdsburg and Cloverdale are participating.

Creative Catalysts

The core group spearheading the work in Petaluma met in early February, with a primary objective to help creatives living and working in Petaluma to simply know about the existence of each other in order to foster friendships, create collaborative opportunities for hired work or volunteer projects, and to make connections between the supply and demand of services. They discussed what they are interested in coordinating in terms of potential creative collaborations and creative activation of private and public spaces. They are planning a larger event in late March.