



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

PUBLIC ART

Fire Memorial

The Fire Memorial Task Force has identified 6 finalists out of the 83 applicants. One finalist is local to Sonoma County, and one is from Napa County. The others are from the Greater Bay Area, Southern California, and Toronto. All finalists are being invited to attend a site orientation meeting on site at Nagasawa Park, as well as an in-person interview with the Task Force. These meetings are currently being scheduled and anticipated to be complete by the end of November. Once an artist is selected for the project, there will be opportunities for community engagement. The first phase of their work will be a community engagement process to design the memorial, which will occur in early 2025.

District 5 Public Art Project Grants

This winter, Creative Sonoma will be launching Public Art Project Grants for District 5. This grant program is designed to enable creative projects that demonstrate the power of the arts to contribute to the social cohesion of our communities through beautification of downtown areas or neighborhoods. Applications from local organizations are being solicited to advance that broad objective, with focus on impact in unincorporated 5th District locations that are publicly accessible. The grants are funded by the office of Supervisor Hopkins through community infrastructure funding. The application will be available in January.

ARTS EDUCATION

Arts Education Framework Revision

Last week a leadership team began working to revise the current countywide arts plan. The team is comprised of several SCOE coordinators, CTEF, Windsor USD, Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, [Creative Bridges](#), and Creative Sonoma. The goal is to streamline and update the current Framework and address needs of equity and access with goals for the next 5 years. SCOE PK Coordinator, Ryan Kurada, gave a presentation on the international Reggio Emilia Children Exhibit that is coming to Sonoma County in Dec. 2027. Planning for this exhibit will be incorporated into the master plan. The team meets for a second and final day in November. The plan is due to be completed by February.

Workforce Campaign

Collaborative work continues on “College and Career Pathways in the Arts” Day at SSU. High school and community college students will be invited to learn more about careers in the arts and arts education on February 1, 2025.

The Arts Educators Workforce Committee will convene next week to review the new campaign materials as well as populate a resource page with content.

Creative Sonoma will offer presentations about arts education career pathways to the county's cohort of high school counselors and SSU visual art faculty and students.

GRANT MAKING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

2025 Arts Impact Grants for Organizations

The 2025 Arts Impact Grants for Organizations application closed on October 1, 2024. We received 54 applications, the most ever for a Creative Sonoma arts organization grant program. Applicants included 15 organizations not funded by Creative Sonoma previously. Staff is currently reviewing the applications for eligibility and completion, after which an outside panel of peer reviewers will score for artistic merit. This grant pool totals \$180,000: \$150,000 from Creative Sonoma's annual budget and \$30,000 from the National Endowment for the Arts. The review process should be complete by mid-November 2024 when 45 organizations will be selected to receive \$4,000 each to support their general operations in calendar year 2025.

Professional Development Partners Program

As part of our Professional Development Partners Program, Sebastopol Center for the Arts has 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.