



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

**PUBLIC ART**

**Fire Memorial**

The deadline for artists to submit qualifications for the Fire Memorial Public Art Project was August 9. The project Task Force is now reviewing the 83 submissions received. They will narrow down the list to 3-5 finalists who will be invited to interview with the Task Force. An artist should be selected by the end of September.

**Public Art Plan**

Staff presented a draft Public Art Plan to the Board of Supervisors on July 16. Input was received on the draft plan as well as general direction on funding and governance for a County Public Art Program. The board requested a workshop on the topic and more detail on specific areas. Staff will return to the Board (date TBD) to move the discussion forward.

**ARTS EDUCATION**

**Arts Education Alliance**

Thirty-one representatives from local arts organizations attended the Arts Education Alliance's [Mix and Mingle and More!](#) at the Luther Burbank Center for the Arts in August. Three sessions of professional learning and networking included:

- Presentations by Dr. Eric Engdahl, member of Austin Beutner's Prop 28 Team, about partnering with schools around Prop 28, Magnolia Project's apprenticeship work, and support and resources offered by Creative Sonoma
- Artful Conversations – a book club style conversation about "Your Brain on Art"
- Mixer at Luther Locals Live concert

**Arts Education Framework Revision**

A leadership team of arts education experts has been invited to revise the current Arts Education Framework 2019-2024. The local team will meet and work with statewide expert, Peggy Burt for two workdays to rethink and retool the Framework to better address equitable access to quality arts education. The work begins in October.

**Workforce Campaign**

Sonoma State University and Creative Sonoma are partnering to present a Career in the Arts Day on the SSU campus on February 1, 2025. High school and community college students will be invited to learn more about careers in the arts and arts education with presentations by SSU and SRJC faculty, SSU students, and Creative Sonoma. Parents will be invited to accompany their students. The AEA is addressing issues around equity including transportation and communication. Collateral created by Kimzin Creative for the Workforce Campaign will be tied to the event.

### **District Arts Leaders Cohort**

By request, Creative Sonoma continues to host monthly office hours for school district arts leads. Last year, professional development and support was provided to Arts Education Framework Grantees - those districts that have written or will write strategic arts plans with funding from Creative Sonoma. This year, the opportunity to join the cohort is extended to any school district. Statewide/countywide updates will be provided, and the agenda will be participant-driven. Prop 28 examples will be shared. Some exciting uses of Prop 28 already include:

- Roseland has hired 4 music teachers and will have music for the first time.
- Sonoma Valley is focusing on building back its elementary music program.
- Petaluma is hiring a visual art and dance teacher and providing units of theatre.
- Windsor has hired instructional assistants (aka teaching artists), a visual art teacher, and is supporting growth of a low-enrollment dance class this year.

### **Reggio Children Exhibit**

Sonoma County's proposal to host the Reggio Emilia Children Exhibit has been accepted. We will host the exhibit at SOMO Village's art gallery in Rohnert Park from December 2027-May 2028. Planning meetings will begin with SCOE, SRJC, and Creative Sonoma.

## **GRANT MAKING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

### **2025 Arts Impact Grants for Organizations**

The next funding cycle of this program will open on August 27, 2024. The funding pool for this program is \$150k from the regular Creative Sonoma budget, with an additional \$30k from the National Endowment for the Arts, to total \$180,000. Up to 40 grants of \$4,000 each will be awarded to support general operating costs and programming. An Application Workshop will be held via Zoom on Tuesday, August 27, 2024. The application deadline is October 1, 2024.

### **Community Arts Centers Cohort**

Community Arts Centers that participated in professional development training earlier this year requested to continue meeting throughout this calendar year. Each center is hosting the cohort for a tour and discussion. Sonoma Community Center hosted the initial cohort meeting last week, and discussion focused on topics around combined efforts for grant writing, public will campaign, teaching artist training, and sharing artists. The next cohort meeting is scheduled for November.