



**Economic Development Collaborative  
Creative Sonoma Update  
May 2025**

**ADMINISTRATION**

**Hiring**

Creative Sonoma is hiring a Program Officer! This role will strategize, design, and execute programs and services that align with Creative Sonoma's mission, fostering and promoting the creative community throughout Sonoma County. The position will manage the grant and capacity-building programs offered by Creative Sonoma, including grant-making, professional development, peer networks, and serve as a one-on-one consultant to creative individuals, nonprofits, and businesses. Applications were due 5/19.

**Federal and State Cuts to Arts & Culture Funding**

Federal funding cuts to the arts and humanities are concerning to the local arts community. Creative Sonoma has been sharing updates and resources, including actions you can take to respond. Current information is available through [CA Arts Advocates](#) and [Americans for the Arts](#).

The latest CA budget revision includes a devastating cut to the arts by removing the \$11.5M for the Performing Arts Equitable Payroll Fund. Many performing arts non-profits have already applied for this funding and their applications are now in final CAL OSBA review. Pulling the funds at this stage would cancel hundreds of arts jobs, close venues and hurt local businesses that rely on performing arts audiences. As of 5/19, Creative Sonoma is aware of 8 local performing arts organizations who applied for this one-time payroll reimbursement program. Organizations are encouraged to contact their state representatives to urge them to add this funding back to the budget.

**ARTS EDUCATION**

**Arts Ed Symposium**

[A report on the Symposium](#) is now available complete with images and resources that were provided. 16 school districts attended, 20 arts & culture organizations tabled, with a total of 152 in attendance.

**[AEA Mix and Mingle and More](#)**

On May 29, the AEA will celebrate another school year with the arts education community! All arts education advocates are welcome. Catch up with acquaintances and meet new folks as you enjoy The California Theatre's space and beverage and food menus.

**GRANT MAKING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**District 5 Community Public Art Project Grants**

[Grantees](#) were announced on May 8. A webpage for funded projects will be published soon, including project dates, and opportunities to participate.

### **Teaching Artists Certificates**

- Creative Sonoma is partnering with the Luther Burbank Center for the Arts to offer the [LBC Teaching Artist Certificate](#). The certificate is designed to equip aspiring and current teaching artists with essential skills, strategies, and hands-on experience in arts education. Participants will engage in a series of workshops and a practicum that provides direct experience working alongside LBC's professional Teaching Artists. Participants who complete the program in full are eligible for an honorarium. The training begins in October 2025.
- Creative Sonoma is also promoting the [SRJC Arts Educator Assistant Certificate](#) that begins this fall. Prospective students are professional artists, teaching artists, 2<sup>nd</sup> career professionals, paraprofessionals, and others. Courses are CSU-transferrable.

### **Emerging Artist Incubator**

SebArts Emerging Artist Incubator Program, funded by Creative Sonoma, is designed to empower and support talented emerging artists on their journey to establish themselves as successful and sustainable artists by providing professional development. A part of the program includes FREE Professional Development Workshops open to the public. All remaining workshops held at Sebastopol Center for the Arts. Register online [HERE](#).

- Finances and Bookkeeping - May 29, 10-11am
- Paths for Success - June 12, 10-11am
- Curatorial Guidance - June 19, 10-11am

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