

**Economic Development Board  
Creative Sonoma Update  
October 2022**

**Grantmaking**

Arts Impact for Organization Grants - Sam has put together peer review panels for this grant program who will be meeting together in early November to review and make funding recommendations. Because this is the highest number of applications we have received to date, the decisions will be especially difficult. We anticipate completing the contracts for the grantees in December so that projects can begin in January 2023.

Arts Education Framework Grants – Arts Education Framework Grants – We received applications from three school districts, Santa Rosa City Schools, Sonoma Valley, and Bennett Valley in Sonoma County for these grants which will include funds for consulting to create or revise a district arts education master plan as well as for preliminary implementation activities. Grantees will also meet together as a cohort over the grant year to share their learnings and build a stronger network among these arts-supporting school personnel.

**Public Art**

Public Art Consultancy – The Steering Committee for our public art project is meeting this month to review the public art program plan as it is developing. Presentations have also been/will be made to several of the County Municipal Advisory Councils to test drive the ideas with the general public. We will also be meeting with our Board of Supervisors' Ad Hoc committee this month for their ongoing guidance.

Fire Memorial - With the help of our Public Art consultant, we created a Fire Memorial Public Art Work Plan for approval by the Board of Supervisors. This plan comes at their request, following their allocation of \$250,000 for a memorial project. The plan will be on their agenda on November 1, 2022.

Fire Tapestry - We facilitated the “permanent loan” of a tapestry wall hanging created by 24 members of the Redwood Fiber Arts Guild immediately following the 2017 wildfires. The hanging has been exhibited at a variety of community events over these past five years and now has a home in the main lobby of the County Administrative offices on Administration Drive.

**Arts Education**

Debbie has been working with the Arts Education Alliance to host Arts Education “Meet-Ups” of school personnel, arts organizations, teaching artists and others interested in arts education. Two events have been held so far, both with attendance of approximately 50 people. Attendees have also included county school board members, candidates for the new county school superintendent, and other interested nonprofits (Sonoma County library, etc.). The events have been very energized, and the live networking opportunity has been a welcome reprieve from our years of zoom experiences.