



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

**PUBLIC ART**

**Fire Memorial**

Creative Sonoma has extended the deadline for artists to submit qualifications for the Fire Memorial Public Art Project. Please visit <https://www.creativesonoma.org/fire/> for more info and to see the full RFQ. Please share this opportunity with your artist/designer networks. The deadline to submit qualifications is now August 9. As of 7/15, we have received 22 submissions.

**Public Art Plan**

Staff is scheduled to present a draft Public Art Plan to the Board of Supervisors on July 16. Input is being sought on the draft plan as well as direction on funding and governance for a County Public Art Program.

**ARTS EDUCATION**

**Workforce Development Committee**

The Arts Education Workforce Committee met to discuss and develop a marketing campaign targeting students about the current opportunity in arts education. Kimzin Creative will develop the campaign collateral while facilitator Karin Demarest works with Committee representatives to prepare their communication channels to distribute the messaging. Those interested in learning more will be directed to a landing page on the Creative Sonoma site that will serve as a front door to exploring teacher preparation options and pathways.

**Arts Education Alliance**

The Arts Education Alliance is offering [Mix and Mingle and More!](#) at the Luther Burbank Center for the Arts on August 13. Three sessions of professional learning and networking will include:

- Meetup for Education Leaders from Arts Orgs with presentations by Dr. Eric Engdahl, member of Austin Beutner's Prop 28 Team, about partnering with schools and Magnolia Project about apprenticeships
- Artful Conversations – a book club style conversation about “Your Brain on Art”
- Mixer at Luther Locals Live

**Reggio Children Exhibit**

Creative Sonoma has partnered with SCOE and the SRJC to apply as host for the Reggio Emilia Children Exhibit sometime in 2027-2028. The [Reggio Emilia approach](#) is an educational philosophy and pedagogy focused on preschool and primary education that is student-centered and allows for self-directed, experiential learning. The travelling exhibit documents learning processes in children and their teachers and is installed throughout the world. The current exhibit, [Mosaic of Marks, Words, Material](#), brings together children's works and processes on the theme of drawing and narrative in Reggio Emilia's infant-toddler centers and preschools. The exhibit will offer professional learning for teachers and provide understanding for parents and the community as to the value of art and literacy in young children's lives.

The SRJC will host the event. Creative Sonoma is partnering to help build strategy, collaborations, and funding options.

## **GRANT MAKING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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

The next funding cycle of this program will open in August 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.

### **Professional Development**

A report on the impact of FY23-24 initiatives will be available in late July 2024. Staff are pursuing new contracts with Professional Development Partners to provide training opportunities to our creative community in FY24-25.