



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

ADMINISTRATION

Hiring

Creative Sonoma completed two rounds of interviews for the Program Officer position. A conditional job offer was made to one candidate, and we are currently negotiating terms.

Advocacy Updates

[State Advocacy Win!](#) Thanks to the Legislature, a series of budget bills signed on July 1 restores the \$11.5 million for the Performing Arts Equitable Payroll Fund that Governor Newsom proposed to cut in the May revise. This funding will now go to small-budget nonprofit performing arts organizations across the state for payroll subsidies to support arts jobs.

ARTS EDUCATION

Reggio Emilia Approach Exhibition & International Conference

Creative Sonoma supported the project this month by assisting in plans for an October 2025 meeting of the Vision, Design, and Planning Subcommittee. The meeting will be held at the Schulz Museum and will include County partners that support our youngest learners and their families. Also, professional development will be offered to early childhood educators who teach in schools and nonprofits around the Reggio Emilia approach to set the stage for understanding the philosophy, strategies, and outcomes of the Reggio approach.

Arts Education Alliance Mixer

Join the [Arts Education Alliance for a Mix and Mingle](#) on August 20 from 5:30pm-7:30pm at Mitote Food Park. Connections and reconnections will be made with the AEA community for this back-to-school event.

GRANT MAKING & PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Emerging Artist Incubator

Applications are now open for Fall 2025, which will be the second artist cohort of the 2025 Emerging Artist Incubator Program. Produced in partnership with Sebastopol Center for the Arts, this 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. To learn more and to apply click [HERE](#). Deadline to apply is July 30.

Teaching Artist Training

Creative Sonoma is partnering with the Luther Burbank Center for the Arts to support and promote teaching artist training and teaching practicum to earn the [LBC Teaching Artist Certificate](#). The five

workshops begin this October, and a practicum will be offered in the spring to gain experience with a mentor teacher in a classroom. Scholarships will be offered to cover the program's \$50 fee. An honorarium will be available to those who complete the entire program. Each of the workshops is available for anyone to attend as an individual class. To answer questions and provide more information, a Q&A will be held via Zoom on Sept. 3.

Arts Impact Grants for Organizations

The next funding cycle of this program will open in August 2025. The funding pool for this program is \$150k from the regular Creative Sonoma budget, with an additional \$30k from the California Arts Council, to total \$180,000. Up to 45 grants of \$4,000 each will be awarded to nonprofit organizations to support general operating costs and programming. An Application Workshop will be held via Zoom in August, date TBD. The application deadline will be in early October.

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