

Public Art Policy Review Ad Hoc Committee Quarterly Update

July to September 2022

Purpose and Scope

The purpose of the Public Art Policy Review Ad Hoc is to explore options for expanding public art in the community. Creative Sonoma's original work plan, approved by the Board of Supervisors (Agenda Item Number: 47, June 24, 2014) includes a recommendation to consider enacting a percent for art ordinance. In FY2020, Creative Sonoma received grant funding that facilitated hiring a consultant to develop a public art master plan and a percent-for-art ordinance for Board consideration. Prior to hiring the consultant, Creative Sonoma staff held one-on-one briefings with the Supervisors, after which the consultant was hired. Subsequently, Supervisor Gore created the Public Art Policy Review Ad Hoc to work with Creative Sonoma staff to guide the work of the consultant. The process will include stakeholder interviews and community engagement activities designed to collect a wide range of input into the plan.

Ad Hoc Members

- Supervisor Susan Gorin
- Supervisor David Rabbitt

Attendees

County Staff:

- Creative Sonoma
- County Administrator's Office
- Public Art Consultant (Todd Bressi) as necessary
- As-needed subject matter support may also be provided by other departments and staff

Meetings Held

3/24/2022 – Agenda topics: Approve the Ad Hoc charter, confirm work plan for consultant and review preliminary progress.

8/10/2022 – Agenda topics: Public Art Plan progress including early learnings from potential county and external partners; preliminary ideas on financing and review of past Creative Sonoma public art projects with budgets; preliminary discussion as to the BOS role in governance; preliminary discussion of a project plan to produce a fire memorial.

Fiscal Impacts

The contract for this consultant is being paid for by a grant from the Hewlett Foundation. The contract amount falls within the EDB Director's signing authority.

Status

- Consultant Bressi has made two trips to Sonoma County where he toured sites across the county and met with more than 50 individuals through 7 focus groups in 6 communities covering all districts.
- Additionally, more than 20 phone interviews have occurred. Interviewees have included representatives of government agencies (32%), arts community (50%), non-arts social sector (10%). 20% of interviewees to date are from BIPOC communities.
- Bressi's next site visit will occur during the week of October 10, 2022. His schedule will include visiting a handful of remaining county sites that might be appropriate to include a public art plan and some follow-up interviews. A meeting of the Public Art Steering Committee will also occur as well as presentation to two of the county's MACs: North Sonoma Valley and River. Staff presented to the Springs MAC on 10/12/22.

- Bressi also prepared a Project Plan for a Fire Memorial which will guide the Memorial project, anticipated to get underway by first quarter 2023.
- Bressi and Staff will work to complete a draft of the plan to be presented to all interviews as well as for targeted community presentations to gather final feedback before finalizing the plan for presentation to the Ad Hoc in November/December.

Upcoming Meetings

October 27, 2022.