

Public Art Policy Review Ad Hoc Committee Quarterly Update

April to June 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.

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 one trip to Sonoma County where he toured sites across the county and met with 44 individuals through 7 focus groups in 6 communities covering all districts.
- Additionally, 17 phone interviews have occurred. To 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 is scheduled for the week of July 19, 2022. His schedule will include visiting county-owned sites that might be appropriate to include public art and additional focus groups and interviews. Additionally, we will convene the project's Steering Committee to present preliminary research findings and home in on the emerging themes and issues that have been presented throughout the interviews.
- Bressi has also begun work on a Project Plan for a Fire Memorial which will be used to guide the Tubbs Fire Memorial project, for which the County has allocated \$250,000.
- Bressi and staff are developing a community education event for this fall to help the community learn about how public art can be a tool for community cohesion.

Upcoming Meetings

August 10, 2022.