



Creative Sonoma Advisory Board March 6, 2024 Meeting Minutes

IN ATTENDANCE

Board Members: Gia Baiocchi, Amy Critchett, Erik Castro, Robert Mahar

Absent: Rani Goyal, Victor Ferrer

Staff: Bernadette Marko, Samantha Kimpel, Tara Thompson, Debbie Yarrow

CALL TO ORDER

Gia Baiocchi welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 5:06pm.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The Meeting Agenda was approved.

Motion: Erik Castro

Second: Robert Mahar

Vote: Unanimous

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The January 2024 Meeting Minutes were approved.

Motion: Erik Castro

Second: Amy Critchett

Vote: Unanimous

PUBLIC COMMENTS

There were no public comments.

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATES

Advisory Board Operating Structure, Bylaws and Membership

Tara Thompson reported that the board has not been in full accordance with its bylaws and membership, and that the bylaws are currently under review with County Counsel. In the meantime, Counsel has advised that we may continue with our board meetings but we should not hold committee meetings to identify or nominate new members. The goal is to determine how the board can function to support Creative Sonoma's next phase, and to have the bylaws and membership align with that.

Creative Sonoma Workplan Development

Thompson reported that we are finalizing a workplan for Creative Sonoma. The workplan is structured in a way that lays out all program areas for which we are responsible as a County division, and the corresponding timeline and budget for those program areas. Our budget will align with the County's budget timeline.

Form 700 Reminder

Thompson reminded the board that Form 700s are due April 2.

FUND DEVELOPMENT

National Endowment for the Arts Grant

Samantha Kimpel reported that the National Endowment for the Arts grant that we were awarded (and that was intended to augment the County funding for the Arts Impact Grant) will not be available for regranting until April, therefore we have decided to postpone the distribution of the NEA award until next calendar year and to move forward with the County funding only in order to not further delay the process.

ART BREAK

Kimpel gave a presentation on the three 2023 Arts Impact Grant for Organizations grantees whose programs funded film projects.

PROGRAM REPORTS

Public Art (Fire Memorial Update)

Fire Memorial Task Force Project Manager Karin Demarest gave a presentation on the Fire Memorial Task Force and touched on topics such as goals, work to date, site selection process, and next steps.

Members inquired about and discussed artist selection and timeline, community engagement, and installation.

Thompson informed the board that we may be required to obtain approval from the City of Santa Rosa on any city-owned sites before presenting to the Board of Supervisors. We are currently in discussion with the City of Santa Rosa.

Grants Programs and Professional Development

Kimpel reported that the Sebastopol Center for the Arts launched their Arts Incubator program, funded by Creative Sonoma, and there are seven artists participating.

BOARD UPDATES

Thompson shared that Victor Ferrer is the 2024 City of Sonoma Treasure Artist. He will be honored at reception on March 19 at El Verano Elementary School. All board members are invited.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned at 6:22pm

Motion: Erik Castro

Second: Robert Mahar