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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Opportunity Grants for Summer Arts Youth Programs

New Funds Made Available by County Supervisors

SONOMA COUNTY, Calif. -- In last week's budget hearings, the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors allocated \$100,000 for summer art youth programs, to occur during the summer of 2015. The program will be administrated by Creative Sonoma, a countywide arts initiative through the County's Economic Development Board.

Grants will be available to nonprofit organizations and individuals who have fiscal sponsors to provide children aged 7 to 18 with opportunities to attend high quality cultural arts summer programs. The grants are on a fast track, utilizing a streamlined application and review process in order for the funds to be available for programs set to occur this summer. The deadline for applications is **July 10, 2015**.

"There is no question that arts training can stimulate creativity, foster team building and communication skills, and provide positive learning opportunities for young people," said Board of Supervisors Chair Susan Gorin. "These funds recognize those positive outcomes and are directly linked to our overall strategy to invest upstream in youth education to support their healthy development."

An applicant Q&A session is scheduled for Thursday, July 2 from 10:00 am to Noon at the Creative Sonoma offices (141 Stony Circle, Suite 110, Santa Rosa). Applicants may also dial in to the call at 707.565.8996.

Grant guidelines outlining eligibility and application forms are available at <http://sonomacounty.ca.gov/edb/>.

For more information, please contact Kristen Madsen at kristen.madsen@sonoma-county.org.

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