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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Kristen Madsen, 707.565.6120

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**Summer Arts Youth Program Grants Announced**  
*\$100,000 awarded to Sonoma Arts Organizations*

SONOMA COUNTY, Calif. -- The Board of Supervisors announced today that 15 grants were awarded for summer arts youth program across the County. Arts programs will take place between now and September 15 at art centers, schools and community centers. This is the second year of funding from the County for this program, which reached nearly 1500 youth with close to 1500 hours of arts programming last summer. The grant program was administrated by Creative Sonoma, a countywide arts initiative through the County's Economic Development Board.

Projects that were funded will serve students in age ranges from 5 to 18, and include programs that teach young people arts skills in music, theater, dance, writing, film and more. Workshops also include training in the business skills necessary to have a career in a creative field, and life skills such as communication, teamwork and creative problem solving.

"Studies confirm that the arts help develop students' critical thinking and collaboration skills, among many other positive benefits," said Board of Supervisors Chair Efren Carrillo. "Summer arts programs can also help students avoid the learning loss that can occur over the break from school."

This allocation of \$100,000 recognizes the ongoing efforts of Sonoma County's nonprofit arts organizations to bring arts exploration to young people.

For more information on Creative Sonoma and the Summer Arts Youth Program Grants, please contact Kristen Madsen at [kristen.madsen@sonoma-county.org](mailto:kristen.madsen@sonoma-county.org).

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### GRANTEES LIST AND CONTACT INFO

Awardee	Contact Person	Email
Alexander Valley Film Society	Kathryn Hecht	kathryn@avfilmsociety.org
ArtEscape	Jill Valvanis	jill@artescapesonoma.com
Artstart	Daniel Doughty	info@artstart.us
Children's Museum of Sonoma County	Collette Michaud	<a href="mailto:collette@cmosc.org">collette@cmosc.org</a>
Cinnabar Theater	Diane Dragone	diane@cinnabartheater.org
C-Media	Desiree Poindexter	dpoindexter@cmedialabs.org
Healdsburg Center for the Arts	Rhonda Kyrias	rkyrias@gmail.com
The Imaginists	Amy Pinto	amy@theimaginists.org
Luther Burbank Center for the Arts	Robin Seltzer	rseltzer@lutherburbankcenter.org
Petaluma Arts Center	Val Richman	vrichman@petalumaartscenter.org
Roustabout Theater	Clark Lewis	Clark.leweis@roustabout-theater.org
Santa Rosa Symphony	Alan Silow	hahsan@srsymphony.org
Sebastopol Center for the Arts	Linda Galletta	lindag@sebarts.org
Sonoma Community Center	Kala Stein	kala@sonomacommunitycenter.org
Sonoma Valley Museum of Art	Linda Cano	lcano@svma.org