



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Kristen Madsen, 707-565-6120

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Grants Awarded To Arts Projects in Response to the Fires
Eight County Nonprofits to Receive Funds

SONOMA COUNTY, CA. – Creative Sonoma is pleased to announce that grant awards totalling \$36,000 have been made to eight area nonprofits for programs and activities being produced in response to the fires. Programs include exhibitions of rescued fire artifacts, art-making projects to capture the individual and collective experiences of our community, newly commissioned music, and storytelling and gathering projects. Funds for these grants have been made available by the County of Sonoma and donors to the Creative Sonoma Relief Fund.

“The arts have a unique ability to give voice to the incomprehensible experience we all shared last October,” said Chair of the Board of Supervisors James Gore. “These grants will support our local artists as they offer creative pathways to hope and healing.”

These arts organizations grants are just one element of Creative Sonoma’s three-part response in support of the community after the fires. Grants totalling more than \$150,000 have previously been awarded to 122 creative individuals and entities that suffered physical and economic loss. Physical loss grants are still available for members of the creative community; guidelines and the application are posted at: <https://www.creativesonoma.org/recovery-fund-application-physical/>. The third program is a teaching artist residency program, placing specially trained teaching artists in County schools who are using the arts to help alleviate the trauma experienced by our students. Residencies are underway now and will continue through the fall.

A complete list of Arts Response grantees is attached. For more information about these grants and other Creative Sonome fire response activities, please contact Kristen Madsen at kristen.madsen@sonoma-county.org.

Creative Sonoma, a division of the Economic Development Board, supports and advances the creative community of Sonoma County.

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Arts Response Grantees

Art Escape (Sonoma): Sweet Home Sonoma – a collaborative creation and exhibition made by Sonoma Valley residents from 160 tiny birdhouses.

Contact: Jill Valavanis, jill@artescapesonoma.com

KRCB (Rohnert Park): Creative Second Responders – two television and six radio short-length programs featuring local artists creating works in response to the firestorm.

Contact: Nancy Dobbs, nancy_dobbs@krcb.org

Museum of Sonoma County (Santa Rosa): The Fire Project Exhibition – a three part project including The Fire Collection (artifacts rescued from the fires), The Fire Wall (artistic expressions created by community members) and an exhibition.

Contact: Jeff Nathanson, jnathanson@museumsc.org

Petaluma Arts Center (Petaluma): Recused and Reclaimed - Healing Through Art: an exhibition comprised of art created from found and rescued fire artifacts.

Contact: Delfin Vigil, dvigil@petalumaartscenter.org

Rivertown Revival (Petaluma): Rise Sonoma – a two-part project to be produced during the 2018 event including an interactive sculpture and a music and visual art collaboration.

Contact: Margaret Kuffel, margaretkuffel@gmail.com

Santa Rosa Symphony (Santa Rosa): Sonoma Strong – an original composition commissioned by Santa Rosa native Paul Dooley to be performed by the orchestra at its July free community concert.

Contact: Nathan Duckworth, nduckworth@srsymphony.org

Sonoma Valley Museum of Art (Sonoma): Sonoma Fire Stories Exhibition – a multi-media presentation of community stories depicting the many facets of experience in the wake of the fires.

Contact: Linda Keaton, lkeaton@svma.org

Walking Elephant Theatre Company (Santa Rosa): The Thicker Than Smoke Project – a series of documentary theatre pieces created by students affected by the wildfires.

Contact: Reva Navha, walkingelephantreva@gmail.com