



CURRENTS | February 2021

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GET NEWS: Stories and Updates

Supporting the Creative Sector and Arts Workers

The COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating to artists and creative sector workers in the United States. Arts and culture job losses exceed those in the hospitality sector, which is also among the hardest hit industries.

In a recent study of over 600 California creative businesses by Californians for the Arts, "79% of respondents have eliminated and/or reduced programs and 16% are not confident that if programs cannot resume before April 1 that they will be able to survive."

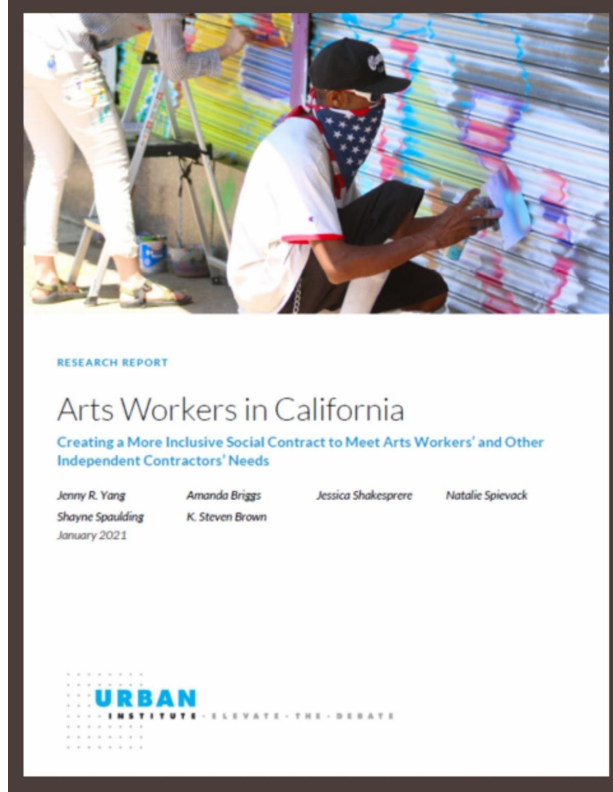
As a result of this unique and ongoing disaster, a new arts activism has been born. Arts advocates have been successful in lobbying for additional stimulus funding for the creative sector, and arts workers (from actors, to venue owners, to freelance designers) have organized and become politically active in new ways to protect their livelihoods.

The term "arts worker" is quickly gaining popularity and visibility, especially among those lobbying state and federal government for more relief funding to arts and culture organizations and for changes in policies to protect and support arts contractors, aka gig workers. There's good reason to proudly claim the arts worker identity: the U.S. Arts and Culture sector - prior to the pandemic - was an \$878 billion industry that

employed 5 million people.

In the past few months, many new studies on--and resources for--enhancing arts worker support and safety nets have been published and created. In addition to what we all know (and feel!) regarding how essential the arts and creativity are for social connection, learning, and enriching our lives, this energized advocacy has led to new designated funding from Congress, hearings in California about the contributions of arts workers to the state economy, and an emerging pilot program by the State of California for a new Creative Corp.

For more on this movement, to learn how to get involved, or to read the study "Arts Workers in California" (thumbnail above), click on the Learn More button for our short list of recommended reading and resources.



LEARN MORE

WHAT WE'RE UP TO

GRANTS

COVID-19 Arts Relief Grants for Arts Organizations (CARGO) - Phase 3

Sonoma County 501(c)(3) Arts Organizations that will produce programming during May through December 2021 via any delivery method, from in-person to online to at-home activities, are invited to apply for this third phase of general operating support relief grants. Those that received funding in Phase 1 and/or 2 are welcome to apply, as well as eligible organizations that have yet to apply to the program.

Please visit the [CARGO grant webpage](#) to learn about eligibility, and to sign up for an applicant Q&A session (via Zoom) in March. Important dates are as follows:

- Application Opens:** March 2, 2021
- Application Workshop:** March 16, 2021
- Deadline to Apply:** March 30, 2021
- Award Notification:** May 4, 2021
- Funding Period:** July 1 - December 31, 2021

LEARN MORE

ARTS EDUCATION



Arts Education Blog February 2021

Student Arts Spotlight

- This month's Student Arts Spotlight is **Luther Burbank Center for the Arts - Cantares de Mi Tierra** (Mariachi Ensemble). Congratulations!

Also in the blog:

- Luther Burbank Center for the Arts, training in "Trauma Informed Teaching Practices" on **February 16, 2021**
- Santa Rosa Symphony, learn about Music Program for Schools
- Read about "Why Art? Data and Research Downloadable Cards" and an article from *Edutopia* about arts teachers bringing much needed schoolwide community back to our schools.

Read the blog and watch the Student Arts Spotlight video [HERE](#).

Click on the Learn More button for more on all things Arts Education produced by Creative Sonoma and the Sonoma County Arts Education Alliance.

LEARN MORE

COVID-19 AND WILDFIRE RECOVERY

COMING SOON: Shuttered Venue Operators Grant

Offered through the U.S Small Business Administration, the Shuttered Venue Operators Grant is intended for live venue operators, theatrical producers, live performing arts organization operators, relevant museum operators who meet specific criteria, motion picture theater operators, and talent representatives.

While the date that the grant will open to applications has yet to be announced, the SBA updated their Frequently Asked Questions page on February 5, 2021. Learn more [HERE](#).

2020-2021: Creative Reopening Partners

Creative Sonoma, with funding from the National Endowment for the Arts and the County of Sonoma, has partnered with six local Chambers of Commerce or Business Districts to combine the arts with safely operating restaurants and retail

during COVID-19 restrictions. View the outdoor art on display in these locations!

- [Downtown Santa Rosa's Open & Out](#) - art work on view through Spring 2021
- [Windsor's Global Cuisine - Around the World in 20 Blocks](#) - extended for locations where artwork can remain on display
- [VOICES - Healdsburg's Creative Reopening](#) - through June 2021
- [Petaluma Creative Reopening Parklet Program](#) - coming soon
- [Russian River Creative Reopening Campaign by Artist Jim Isermann](#)
- [Sonoma Promenade](#) - more info coming soon

General Recovery Resources from Creative Sonoma:

- **UPDATED:** [Relief Funds for Creatives](#) - 50+ funds listed, ranging from COVID-19 relief to wildfire and other emergencies. **NEW For Arts Orgs:** California Arts Council's Arts & Cultural Organizations General Operating Relief, apply by **Feb. 17, 2021**
- **UPDATED:** [Reopening Arts and Culture](#) - best practices for safely reopening facilities, producing work, and providing services through mitigating risks

From the Economic Development Board:

- [Sonoma County Economic Recovery Action Plan](#) - to support economic and community resiliency and recovery, based on feedback from over 500 community members.
- [SoCo Launch](#) - mitigation and compliance resources to help reopen local businesses as quickly and safely as possible (in English / en Español)
- [Business Recovery Tools](#) - targeted to those impacted by natural disasters



[LEARN MORE](#)

LOCAL NEWS BRIEFS



SUMMER 2020-WINTER 2021 SONOMA COUNTY AWARDS AND RECOGNITION

The **North Bay Spirit Awards** recently highlighted two community leaders who

utilize the arts to build a more equitable and healthy community. Congratulations to the following awardees:

- **Letitia Hanke** (Santa Rosa) in June 2020: read the Press Democrat article "North Bay Spirit Award winner Letitia Hanke helps minority youth find path to success"
- **Isabel Lopez** (Santa Rosa) in November 2020: read the Press Democrat article "North Bay Spirit Award winner uses art to empower Latinos"

Healdsburg Jazz Festival (Healdsburg):

- Announced the retirement of festival founder and Artistic Director, **Jessica Felix**, in August 2020
- Announced their new Artistic Director **Marcus Shelby**, long-time collaborator with Healdsburg Jazz, in November 2020
- Announced their first official Healdsburg Jazz Poet Laureate, **Enid Pickett**, in January 2021

Eki Shola (Santa Rosa):

- Named "Best of the Bay 2020 Editors' Pick" in the San Francisco news + culture publication **48hills** in their music category: "The physician-turned-musician-who barely escaped the wildfires-brought healing and intention with spacey post-R&B."
- Announced the launch of a new digital magazine in February 2021, **Unmute Magazine**, to amplify the voices of BIPOC artists across various creative outlets and is now accepting submissions.

The **National Endowment for the Arts** released its Winter Awards Announcements for FY 2021. Congratulations to the following local grantees:

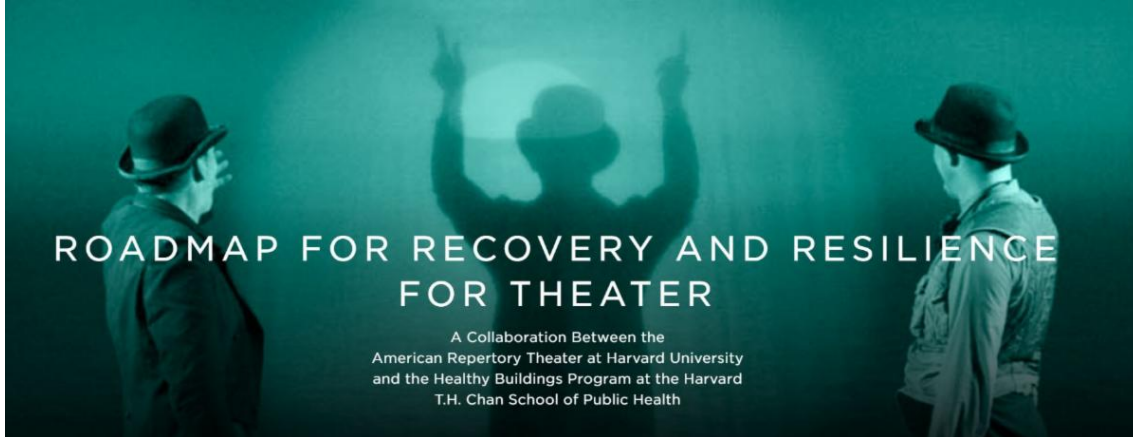
- **Green Music Center** (Rohnert Park) - Grants for Arts Projects (Music)
- **Healdsburg Jazz Festival** - Grants for Arts Projects (Music)
- **Town of Windsor** - Grants for Arts Projects (Local Arts Agencies)

Robert Howard (Santa Rosa), composer, musician, and pianist, was awarded grants from **CalHumanities**, the **Center for Cultural Innovation**, **The National Arts and Disability Center**, and the **Hardly Strictly Music Relief Fund** during summer and fall 2020. He has also released his premier album.

Click on the Read More button for links to related articles and press releases for each of the above items. Submit items for future spotlights (staffing changes, honors, grants etc.) by emailing CreativeSonoma@sonoma-county.org.

READ MORE

WHAT WE'RE READING



As the professional theater at Harvard University, the American Repertory Theater embarked on a collaboration with the Healthy Buildings Program at the Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health to research and create the [**Roadmap for Recovery and Resilience for Theater**](#), which was initially launched in May 2020 and has been regularly updated. They write:

The COVID-19 pandemic has forced theaters around the world to shut their doors and face existential questions about the future. Theaters are asking how to safely reopen and how to responsibly welcome back audiences that may be wary of public gathering. Against a backdrop of anxiety and uncertainty, organizations around the world are left trying to decipher rapid developments in science as well as evolving protocols and recommendations. Audience members have questions about what will be done to ensure their health and safety. Artists and theater staff are wondering how their own roles might change, and what will be done to protect them.

The Roadmap has undergone multiple revisions and additions, with the **3rd Edition released on February 1, 2021**. This update includes sections on multiple topics, from facility management and vaccines, to how to safely produce outdoor theater.

This resource is appropriate and helpful for all live performing venues and producers.

[READ MORE](#)

GET CONNECTED

Arts Events from our Creative Calendar

[CA POETS IN THE SCHOOLS: Poetry Workshop | Online Poetry Workshop for Youth](#)

Online. Ongoing.

[SEBASTOPOL CENTER FOR THE ARTS: Poetry Reading | PoeticLicenseSonoma](#)

Online. February 23, 2021 + additional dates.

[MUSEUM OF SONOMA COUNTY: Virtual Conversation | Collective Arising: A Positionality of Insistence from Black Bay Area Artists](#)

Online. February 25, 2021.

Opportunities from our Marketplace

[CA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION: Award Opportunity | California Exemplary Arts Education Award](#)

Statewide, CA. Apply by February 22, 2021.

[TOWN OF WINDSOR: Call to Artists | Discovering Windsor Through Art](#)

Windsor, CA. Submit by March 1, 2021.

[COMMUNITY FOUNDATION SONOMA COUNTY: Grant | Sonoma County Vintners Foundation 2021 Community Grants - Arts and Culture](#)

Sonoma County, CA. Apply by March 5, 2021.

[ALLIANCE FOR CA TRADITIONAL ARTS: Grant | Hewlett 50 Arts Commissions - Folk and Traditional Arts](#)

Bay Area, CA. Apply by March 8, 2021.

MORE [Opportunities](#) (Auditions, Calls to Artists, Jobs, Grants, Professional Development, and more)

WITH SUPPORT FROM



The mission of Creative Sonoma is to support and advance the creative community of Sonoma County. We define the creative community as individuals, organizations and businesses whose work is creative at its core. This includes artists, nonprofit cultural organizations, and creative enterprises such as design

firms, galleries, recording and video studios, and more.



The e-newsletter CURRENTS is published monthly. Items listed under Events and Opportunities are drawn from our Calendar and Marketplace. To post items, login or register [HERE](#).

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