

CREATIVE SONOMA

CURRENTS | December 2023

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OUR TOP STORY



Announcing Creative Sonoma's new Director, Tara Thompson

Tara Thompson joined the Creative Sonoma staff as its new Director at the end of November 2023. Experienced in managing a broad range of arts programming and public art projects within local government, Tara most recently served as the City of Santa Rosa's Arts and Culture Manager.

In her role with the City of Santa Rosa, Tara is most proud of her work managing numerous and often complex and political public art projects, either with private developers on their percent-for-art requirements, or with numerous community stakeholders and neighborhood groups.

Tara shared that she "is grateful for the opportunity to continue serving the creative community and look forward to uplifting the excellent work of the Creative Sonoma Team," and that one of her goals is "to be particularly attentive to the emerging public art initiatives Creative Sonoma is supporting, including establishing a County public art plan and policy."

Tara received her Master of Fine Arts from Mills College and her Bachelors of Fine Arts from Sonoma State University. Prior to and integrated within her work for the City of Santa Rosa, she has worked in the arts field in educational, gallery and administrative positions. She lives in Santa Rosa with her husband Argo Thompson, CEO of the California Theatre of Santa Rosa, and their son Kai.

Congratulations and welcome, Tara!

OUR WORK

New Award



Nominations
open now!

Sonoma County Arts Educator of the Year Award

Honoring professional arts
educators working with the
K-12 population

Presented by:



LUTHER BURBANK
CENTER FOR
THE ARTS

CREATIVE
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Sonoma County Arts Educator of the Year Award ***Recognizing Significant Contributions to Arts Education***

This new award seeks to honor professional arts educators working with the K-12 population over an extended period of time including, but not limited to, arts and classroom teachers who teach visual art, music, drama, dance, or multimedia arts.

Candidates must meet one or more of the following criteria:

- Demonstrated Leadership
- Commitment to Equity
- Arts Education Champion
- Mentorship

The award recipient will receive a \$500 honoraria and a \$500 gift card to a local arts store of their choice for classroom supplies. This award is sponsored by the Daniels Chapel of Roses. Deadline for nominations is **January 12, 2024**.

[Learn More](#)

Public Art



Chapbook Release & Reception for "Ancestors of Place"

Sunday, December 10, 2023

3:00 PM – 5:00 PM

[Escolar \(map\)](#)



ArtSurround Public Art Program

Artsurround Artist Dani Burlison's project "Ancestors of Place: Community, Land and Connection in Sonoma County" was funded by the City of Santa Rosa Public Art Program and hosted by Escolar. On Sunday, **December 10, 2023**, Burlison will host a Chapbook Release and Reption at Escolar, 3-5pm. The chapbook is a compilation of ten interviews with a variety of Sonoma County residents examining personal experience with community, land, connection to ancestors, and belonging. The event is free but an RSVP is required - click on [Learn More](#) for instructions and location.

As ArtSurround projects are installed or presented, they are added to our project webpage, CreativeSonoma.org/ArtSurround-Projects/; watch the page as well as follow Creative Sonoma's [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages for more details.

[Learn More](#)



Fire Memorial Public Art Project

Fire Memorial Email List Sign Up Form

If you are interested in any opportunities to participate in the Fire Memorial project - from community meetings or surveys, to artist opportunities and more - please fill out this brief interest form. Emails will only be sent as opportunities arise.

- Complete the English and Spanish Bi-Lingual Sign Up Form [HERE](#).

[Learn More](#)

Arts Education



Prop 28 Is Creating A Need for More Arts Educators *Learn About Jobs at the January AEA Mix & Mingle*

Sonoma County Arts Education Alliance (AEA) hosts its quarterly Mix & Mingle, and in January it's back at Santa Rosa's Mitote. Come meet your fellow arts educators and advocates!

When: Wednesday, **January 24, 2024**, 5:30-7:00pm

Where: Mitote Food Park, 665 Sebastopol Road, Santa Rosa, CA

Special guests at this event will be representatives from the **North Coast School of Education** to casually discuss opportunities to teach arts in the classroom. Find out how your work in the arts might translate into a career path in education.

[Register](#)

Student Arts Spotlight

Tech High School Band

Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District



This monthly feature celebrates excellence in local arts education!
Learn more: www.creativesonoma.org/artsed-news-december-2023
Brought to you by the Sonoma County Arts Education Alliance and Creative Sonoma

ArtsEd BLOG

Read the monthly Arts Education Blog for more information on this month's Student Arts Spotlight, as well as for local resources available in the field of arts education.

[Read the Blog](#)

Arts Education Newsletter

Do you want to receive more information on local arts education news and events? The [Sonoma County Arts Education Alliance](#) newsletter is published monthly. Click on the Sign Up button to stay in the know about arts education initiatives in Sonoma County!

[Sign Up](#)

CREATIVE CALENDAR & OPPORTUNITIES



From our Creative Calendar:

Art Escape in Sonoma is holding their **Annual Craft Fest**: includes wreath making, handmade ornaments, artisan market and more. Sunday, **December 10, 2023** 11am-3pm.

MORE Events



From our Opportunities: Registration for the 21st annual **National Arts Program** is open. Santa Rosa residents of all ages and experience should register artwork by **January 4, 2024**.

MORE Opportunities



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