



CITY OF SEBASTOPOL COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT  
PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE MEETING

AGENDA ITEM REPORT FOR MEETING OF: July 8, 2025 (This item was continued from the May 13, 2025, Public Arts Committee Meeting)

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To: Public Art Committee Members  
From: Tori Henkel, Permit Technician

Subject: **Native American Tribes and Public Art**/Consideration of the Public Arts Committee to routinely consider opportunities to honor Pomo heritage when reviewing public art projects.

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**Recommendation:**

That the Public Arts Committee routinely consider opportunities to honor Pomo heritage and cultural expression in the planning and selection of public art projects.

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**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This agenda item recommends that the Public Arts Committee incorporate routinely consideration of Pomo and other Native American cultural representation in public art planning. This aligns with the City Council's adopted goals of equity, cultural recognition, and honoring the Indigenous history of Sebastopol.

**BACKGROUND**

The City of Sebastopol acknowledges Indigenous Peoples as the traditional stewards of the land and that the City of Sebastopol is located within the traditional homelands of the Federated Indians of Graton Rancheria, comprised of Coast Miwok and Southern Pomo peoples. The City has proclaimed that the Southern Pomo and Coast Miwok had inhabited the land now occupied by the City of Sebastopol for thousands of years.

The Pomo maintained a harmonious relationship with the ecology of this area, including knowledgeable and respectful harvesting of animals, plants, and mineral resources; and the Pomo people have struggled to maintain health, identity, prosperity, and cultural traditions since the settling of their land by Euro-Americans. The City recognizes their wisdom and crafts traditions hold important values for our community.

Committee Member Waters had requested an agenda item for discussion at the March 2025 Public Arts Committee meeting. The item was posted for the May 2025 Public Arts Committee meeting but was not heard at that time.

Today's item is to consider the agenda item as proposed by Committee Member Waters.

**DISCUSSION**

The City Council recently adopted City Council goal and action plan related to the Pomo heritage. Please see below:



3	Pomo and public art and updating city web site/land acknowledgement	5							
ACTION PLAN			Status	Timeline	Department Responsible	Constraints	Potential Costs to City Budget	Level of Effort	Additional Notes
Collaboration with Pomo representatives.City staff to meet with Graton Rancheria tribal secretary Melissa Elgin (707) 566-2288, ext 115 and Marianne Rebullida, Executive Assistant for FIGR. 707-566-2288, ext. 111, mrebullida@gratonrancheria.com; and Greg Sarris, Tribal Council Chairman: GSarris@gratonrancheria.com and Angela Hardin, Tribal Council Executive Assistant: ahardin@gratonrancheria.com			Ongoing- Agenda Report in DRAFT	Aug-25	City Administration/City Attorney/ CDD to Monitor Future projects	Research of Land Acknowledgments from other cities	\$3000 for art mural and City staff time	Medium	Once completed, recommend that Public Arts Committee be involved in any art work/projected related. Email sent to Tribe with language; once comments received agenda item will return to Council. Once language is adopted; CDD to Monitor as projects come to the City consistent with state law.

In alignment with the City Council’s adopted goals, Committee Member Waters is requesting that the Public Arts Committee routinely incorporate mindfulness around Native American—particularly Pomo—artistic expression into its work. This includes exploring how such cultural recognition can be meaningfully reflected in public art projects, processes, and collaborations.

By embedding this mindfulness into our regular review and planning processes, staff believes this can advance the City's values of equity, inclusion, and cultural respect, while fostering public spaces that reflect the heritage and diversity of the Sebastopol community.