



Special Meeting
PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE MEETING
MEETING OF JUNE 10, 2025
10:00 - 11:00 A.M.

Supplemental Information

The following information pertains to Regular Agenda Item number 2.A. Consideration of Recommendation to City Council for State of California Cultural Designation Boundary, type, and request to approve submittal of application.

In advance of the Tuesday PAC meeting, PAC members are being asked to contemplate, and members of the public are asked to provide comments on matters related to a proposal to the State of California to designate a portion of the City of Sebastopol as a State cultural district.

Specifically, the City will need to identify key features of the district and a district boundary-an area of town of a roughly ¼ mile to ¾ mile max radius and that encompass an area of town that can be described as an area where:

A-Geographic Area:

1) art is "consumed" e.g. displayed/sold/dances held/films shown/music performed/art materials sold or classes held,

OR

2) art is "produced" e.g. art schools, art studios (individual or collective spaces), again-where art materials or classes are held, culinary arts taught, music is recorded,

OR

3) a cultural heritage site e.g. an area well known as an ethnic or cultural heritage area and which has a substantial amount of historical/related site visit opportunities. This can be interpreted widely. For example-an area that has substantive evidence of the town's history with the Native Americans, Russians, Chinese, Latino people and/or the LGBTQIA community, Charles M. Schulz, etc..

The State Arts Council has not provided their training session on applications yet, but the last time Director Thériault successfully obtained a district for a city, she was also asked to consider:

B-District Points of Interest in the defined geographic area:

specific cultural/arts sites in town such as an art center, locations where music festivals were held, etc. that can be displayed on the district map as key locations of interest. This can be further developed later in the application process, but some immediate ideas could be put forward with the initial application materials.

C-Partners:

A third consideration for the conveying cohort application was partnerships. These had to extend beyond the arts sector (i.e. beyond those who produce or sell art) to include three to four

partners from the broader community who support the arts in some fashion such as:

the city itself, a housing developer, an employer of artists or artisans, an advocacy group for a minority or disadvantaged population, a commercial interest such as a shopping center or commercial interest that promotes the arts or makers/designers in some fashion, an educational facility (public and/or private) where various artistic skills are developed and/or are performed (music, various media formats, culinary, dance), a local bank that helps fund art business start-ups or initiatives, etc.

The goal in developing a district proposal is to focus on what makes Sebastopol unique and special/different than the next cultural district. What will make it stand out from the other 480+ incorporated cities in California? What gives it a “sense of place” or is unique to the community? The Arts Council also highly values social equity and that can be shown in various ways.

D-District Name:

As a matter of catching the State’s (and potential tourist/investor) interest in the City, the district name should be unusual and memorable/reflective of something unique about the city. If it is a little provocative but organic/true to the city’s past, it may help gain the State’s attention. For example, Emeryville named their district the “Rotten City Arts District” because it spoke to their infamous past as an area where San Franciscans visited the town’s speakeasies in the 1930’s etc. The name helped the small town stand out in a field with competition such as Los Angeles, San Francisco and San Diego.