

**CITY OF SEBASTOPOL CITY COUNCIL  
 AGENDA ITEM REPORT FOR MEETING OF:        March 3, 2026**

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**To:**                                Honorable Mayor and City Councilmembers  
**From:**                             Victoria Henkel, Permit Technician  
**Subject:**                         Public Arts Committee Interviews

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:**

That the City Council conduct interviews for three openings on the Public Arts Committee and consider making appointments later in the agenda.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

*PUBLIC ARTS COMMITTEE – 4 YEAR TERM*

The Public Arts Committee uses the Art In-Lieu Fund to develop public art projects within City limits and recommends them to Council. There are currently three openings on the committee. Vacancies are available under the categories listed below, and approved by the City Council.

**BACKGROUND AND DISCUSSION:**

The Public Arts Committee meets on the second Tuesday every other month from 1:00 p.m. to 2:50 p.m. in the Sebastopol City Hall Conference Room on 7120 Bodega Ave, Sebastopol, CA. Terms of office are four-year staggered terms, and the opening term will last until December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2029.

Preference will be shown to City residents and persons who own a business or work in the City; however, qualified candidates from the greater Sebastopol and Sonoma County area will be considered. The City Council will consider the following categories:

1. Active members of a city-based, art-focused, registered nonprofit organization, entity, or facility
2. Persons with experience in the public art field as either an artist, installer, or designer
3. Members of the general public
4. A member of the Design Review Board

Current Public Arts Committee terms/categories are listed below (vacancies are highlighted)

MEMBERS	CATEGORY	TERM ENDING DATE
Robert Brent	Category 2	12/31/2025
Jeff Stucker	Category 3	12/31/2025
Barbara Harris	Category 1	12/31/2025
Gavin Waters	Category 2	12/31/2028
Lynn Deedler (DRB)	Category 4	Upon expiration of DRB term

The City Council received applications from the following individuals for the three openings on the Public Arts Committee:

APPLICANTS	CATEGORY
Robert Brent	Category 2
Jeff Stucker	Category 3
Barbara Harris	Category 1
Kierston Aiello	Category 3
Nicole Letaw	Category 2/3

Interviews for the applicants are scheduled as follows, beginning at 6:00 pm:

<u>Applicant Name</u>	<u>Category:</u>
1. Robert Brent	Category 2
2. Jeff Stucker	Category 3
3. Barbara Harris	Category 1
4. Kierston Aiello	Category 3
5. Nicole Letaw	Category 2/3

**STAFF ANALYSIS:**

The City received all applications within the time period for the three vacancies. This item is for the Council to consider such applications for the three available seats. If the seats are unfilled, City staff will re-advertise the vacancies.

**CITY COUNCIL GOALS / PRIORITIES / GENERAL PLAN CONSISTENCY:**

*Goal 4: High-Performance Organization*

Restoring public trust through transparent and inclusive processes

Improving public communications and community engagement

*General Plan Goal CD 4: Support Art of All Types Throughout the Community*

*Policy CD 4-5: Utilize the Public Arts Committee to provide leadership in the arts community to:*

- Implement the City’s public art goals
- Establish cooperative partnerships with private, public, and educational agencies
- Increase art awareness throughout the city
- Develop funding opportunities for public art
- Explore opportunities to expand community arts participation
- Explore opportunities to promote arts education and participation in local schools

**COMMUNITY OUTREACH:**

This item has been noticed in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act and was available for public viewing and review at least 72 hours prior to the scheduled meeting date.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is no direct fiscal impact associated with the recommended action tonight.

**RESTATED RECOMMENDATION:**

1. Conduct interviews with the five applicants

**OPTIONS:**

None. Consideration of appointment will be considered later in the agenda.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

Applications (redacted)

APPROVALS:

Department Head Approval:

Approval Date: 2/17/2026

CEQA Determination (Planning):

Approval Date: 1/5/2026

The proposed action is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)

Administrative Services (Financial) Approval Date: N/A

Costs authorized in City Approved Budget:  Yes  No  N/A

Account Code (if applicable) \_\_\_\_\_

City Attorney Approval: Approval Date: N/A

City Manager Approval: Approval Date: 2/17/2026

The City Council will consider the following categories:

- 1. Active members of a City-based, art focused, registered nonprofit organization, entity or facility.
- 2. Persons with experience in the public art field as either an artist, installer or designer.
- 3. Members of the general public.
- 4. A member of the Design Review Board.

**Which category is being applied for? (Check all that apply)**

☒ 1 X.

2.

3.

Name: Robert Brent

Home Address, City, State and Zip Code:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Home Phone Number: [Redacted]

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?

Yes No

Work Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?

Yes No

Facsimile Number: \_\_\_\_\_

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?

Yes No

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

If appointed, do you want this address to be visible to the

public?

Yes No

Are you a registered voter in Sebastopol?

Yes No

If so, for how long? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you hold a current business license from the City of Sebastopol?

Yes       No

If so, for how long? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you attended a meeting of this body? When?

Currently serving on this Commisison

Have you served on, interviewed for, or applied for this body previously?

Yes       No

If so, when? 2 Years ago

Present Employer: [REDACTED]

Job Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Have you previously served on any governmental bodies or held elected office? If so please list position held and dates:

4 year term on Harmony Dist. School Board 1988 to 1992

2 Years on Sebastopol PAC

Please list civic or charitable organization to which you belong or have belonged:

Sonoma Land Trust, 33 years on the Board

Sebastopol Center for the Arts, 10 years on the Board and managed construction of the current facility

Laguna de Santa Rosa Foundation, Docent and Guide

Have you been an officer in any of these organizations? If so, please list position held and dates:

VP of Sonoma Land Trust Board

President of Sebastopol Center for the Arts Board

Chair of PAC, currently Vice Chair

What special interests, skills and talents would you bring to this board, commission, or committee?

Long background in arts. Have been a professional potter, and now an avocational woodworker.

Please list any college, professional or vocational schools you have attended with major subject studied, dates and any earned degrees:

Oberlin College

Please list any special awards or recognition you have received:

Sebastopol Citizen of the Year, 2013

Please state why you would like to become a member of this board, commission or Committee, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this body:

Hope to continue in this position.

Are you associated with any organization/employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

Yes      No

If yes, please state name of organization/employment: \_\_\_\_\_

City policy directs all appointed, advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest such as property ownership near a project, or a financial relationship with the applicant. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes      No

How did you hear about this opening?

From City staff as my current term is expiring.

Is there any other information that you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application and materials provided with the application?

What do you think qualifies you to be appointed to this board/committee/commission?

Have been committed to the arts in Sebastopol since 2005

Are there particular issues you think the board/committee/commission should concentrate on?

Funding for the North Entry Sculpture, and other projects currently under discussion with available funds until further funding is available. Maintenance of the Community Sculpture Garden

How should community comments be integrated into the board/committee/commission decision-making process?

Comments are always welcomed at the the beginning of meetings and listened to and discussed by the members

If appointed, how would you handle it if another board/committee/commission member vehemently disagrees with your comments on a regular basis?

Without personal comments, focusing on what compromise might be agreed upon, and ultimately the majority vote.

How would you handle a situation where a proposal comes before your board/committee/commission that the City staff finds consistent with City policies and standards, but that you personally do not support?

I would vote no, and accept the outcome of the vote.

I certify that I have thoroughly read and understand all material in this application.

Applicant's Signature : Robert Brent

Applicant's Name (PLEASE PRINT): Robert Brent

Date: 10/30/2025

The City Council will consider the following categories:

- 1. Active members of a City-based, art focused, registered nonprofit organization, entity or facility.
- 2. Persons with experience in the public art field as either an artist, installer or designer.
- 3. Members of the general public.
- 4. A member of the Design Review Board.

**Which category is being applied for? (Check all that apply)**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Name: Jeff Stucker

Home Address, City, State and Zip Code:

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

Home Phone Number: [Redacted]

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?

- Yes
- No

Work Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?

- Yes
- No

Facsimile Number: \_\_\_\_\_

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?

- Yes
- No

E-Mail Address: [Redacted]

If appointed, do you want this address to be visible to the

public?

- Yes
- No

Are you a registered voter in Sebastopol?

- Yes
- No

If so, for how long? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you hold a current business license from the City of Sebastopol?

Yes  No

If so, for how long? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you attended a meeting of this body? When?

Have served on the PAC since 2021 \_\_\_\_\_

Have you served on, interviewed for, or applied for this body previously?

Yes  No

If so, when? 2021 \_\_\_\_\_

Present Employer: ████████████████████ \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: ████████████████ \_\_\_\_\_

Have you previously served on any governmental bodies or held elected office? If so please list position held and dates:

No

Please list civic or charitable organization to which you belong or have belonged:

Interact(Youth Arm of Rotary International; Adopt-a-Highway (volunteer crew chief); South Sebastopol Neighborhood Alliance

Have you been an officer in any of these organizations? If so, please list position held and dates:

No

What special interests, skills and talents would you bring to this board, commission, or committee?

I was an Elementary Public School Teacher for 32 years, so bring organizational & planning skills; former landscape architect employee; amateur artist

Please list any college, professional or vocational schools you have attended with major subject studied, dates and any earned degrees:

BLA from U of Georgia; Teaching Certificate from SSU

Please list any special awards or recognition you have received:

Teacher of the Year, 2016

Please state why you would like to become a member of this board, commission or Committee, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this body:

I would like the opportunity to continue with the goals and ideas which the PAC has been working on and working towards, which include sculptures at all four main entrances to town, increasing the number of major pieces of art/sculpture within the public domain; developing a festival which honors art; working towards partnerships(for example, with the Seb Center for the Arts)

Are you associated with any organization/employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

Yes      No

If yes, please state name of organization/employment: \_\_\_\_\_

City policy directs all appointed, advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest such as property ownership near a project, or a financial relationship with the applicant. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes      No

How did you hear about this opening?

City Council Meeting Agenda

Is there any other information that you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application and materials provided with the application?

No

What do you think qualifies you to be appointed to this board/committee/commission?

Past service to the PAC; knowledge of the public art situation in Sebastopol; ability to work well with others; current PAC chair

Are there particular issues you think the board/committee/commission should concentrate on?

Full funding for the PAC; recommendations for partnerships; upgrading current signage policies; inventory of public art in City Limits

How should community comments be integrated into the board/committee/commission decision-making process?

Comments for the PAC, whether viewed positively or negatively, should be discussed by the PAC in meetings and a determination made on how best to incorporate and/or address those comments.

If appointed, how would you handle it if another board/committee/commission member vehemently disagrees with your comments on a regular basis?

I would arrange to speak with this member one-on-one to address how the situation impacts the progress and meetings of, the PAC; how this behavior impacts other PAC members & staff

How would you handle a situation where a proposal comes before your board/committee/commission that the City staff finds consistent with City policies and standards, but that you personally do not support?

I would recommend it be agendaized and a full discussion with all PAC members take place. I would hold no bias about the proposal, but would listen with an open mind to the proposal and comments from fellow members, then vote how I feel best in support of citizens.

I certify that I have thoroughly read and understand all material in this application.

Applicant's Signature :  \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Name (PLEASE PRINT): Jeff Stucker

Date: 10-31-2025

November 12, 2025

Assistant City Manager/City Clerk

MMC Mary Gourley

7120 Bodega Avenue

Sebastopol, CA 95473

Enclosed please find my application and resume for membership, City of Sebastopol  
Public Art Committee.

With appreciation,



Barbara A. Harris

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4. A member of the Design Review Board.

**Which category is being applied for? (Check all that apply)**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

**Barbara A Harris**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Address, City, State and Zip Code:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?  
Yes      No

Work Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?  
Yes      No

Facsimile Number: \_\_\_\_\_

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?  
Yes      No

E-Mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

If appointed, do you want this address to be visible to the public?  
Yes      No

Are you a registered voter in Sebastopol?  
Yes      No  
If so, for how long? 1972

Do you hold a current business license from the City of Sebastopol?

Yes       No

If so, for how long? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you attended a meeting of this body? When?

**Yes, curret PAC member**

Have you served on, interviewed for, or applied for this body previously?

Yes       No

If so, when? **2023** \_\_\_\_\_

Present Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ 

Job Title: **Artist/Docent Coordinator** \_\_\_\_\_

Have you previously served on any governmental bodies or held elected office? If so please list position held and dates:

Please list civic or charitable organization to which you belong or have belonged:

As previous Executive Director of the Cultural Arts Council of Sonoma County, I sat on the County of California Arts Council state/local partnership, co-chair, Region 8, County of Sonoma Gang Task Force, Sonoma County Office of Education arts program oversight committees, County of Sonoma Commission on the Status of Women, Santa Rosa Public Art Committee; Santa Rosa Junior College Graphic Arts Advisory Committee

Have you been an officer in any of these organizations? If so, please list position held and dates:

Co-chair, California Arts Council State/Local Partnership, Region 8; Santa Rosa Junior College Graphic Arts Advisory Committee

What special interests, skills and talents would you bring to this board, commission, or committee?

I have actively maintained a vocation and career as artist, arts administrator, gallery manager, mentor, instructor, and volunteer.

Please list any college, professional or vocational schools you have attended with major subject studied, dates and any earned degrees:

I attended: University of Toledo (Ohio) New School for Social Research, New York City, Santa Rosa Junior College, Sonoma State University, UC Berkeley

Please list any special awards or recognition you have received:

California Arts Council State/Local Partnership Leadership Award, Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women Civic Involvement Award, Friends of Calligraphy annual, international symposium Award of Excellence in Community Involvement, County of Sonoma Arts Education Initiative Award for Outreach

Please state why you would like to become a member of this board, commission or Committee, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this body:

I would appreciate maintaining membership with City of Sebastopol Public Art Committee because I have enjoyed the opportunity to maintain leadership for our city council members and citizens to initiate and enhance the awareness, maintenance, and future plans with regard to the choices and installations of public art; escalate the awareness of the myriad of dedicated artists in our community by representing their contributions to the health of our environment and offering opportunities for aesthetic and financial gain. It is significant that public awareness of the arts locally be realized as a viable asset to the health and well being of Sebastopol and environs.

Are you associated with any organization/employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

Yes      No

If yes, please state name of organization/employment: \_\_\_\_\_

City policy directs all appointed, advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest such as property ownership near a project, or a financial relationship with the applicant. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes      No

How did you hear about this opening?

Current membership

Is there any other information that you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application and materials provided with the application?

Please see attached resume for additional artistic and cultural experiences.

I am qualified to remain as a member of the Public Art Committee because it matters to me that representation includes intention of commitment, consistent availability, expertise, experience, and truly a love of the arts.

What do you think qualifies you to be appointed to this board/committee/commission?

I currently sit on the City of Sebastopol Public Art Committee, manage the art exhibits at the Sebastopol Regional Library Forum Room, serve as organizer of the North Bay Jewelry Arts Guild, volunteer as server at the Sebastopol Area Senior Center, food drives for Food for Thought, participate in Sebastopol Center for the Arts Art at the Source Open Studio Program, exhibit at Sebastopol Gallery, Laurence Glassworks, and ADORN jewelry market. I am the docent coordinator and trainer for the Oliver Ranch Sculpture Garden, Geyserville.

Are there particular issues you think the board/committee/commission should concentrate on?

Issues may include heightened awareness of the arts - accomplished by active marketing with arts as viable contributors to the well being and economic development of Sebastopol and surrounding regions.

Along with the recreational and attractiveness of our very special town, augmenting the beauty of West county, the arts are willing and able to play a more active role in serving locals while encouraging visitors. We just need to discover more opportunities toward fruition.

How should community comments be integrated into the board/committee/commission decision-making process?

Community comments can be integrated into decision-making by increasing visibility to events such as replicating on-site exhibitions of potential sculpture/visual art choices. These were done at the library for the public to comment upon favorites. There were also in-person presentations with the artists; very successful, inclusive, and popular.

Increasing publicity for public to attend opening receptions which include the mayor and City council members. This association helps the public to witness the compatible relationship between government and the citizens.

If appointed, how would you handle it if another board/committee/commission member vehemently disagrees with your comments on a regular basis?

Should another PAC member vehemently disagree with my comments on a regular basis, I would initially confer with this person privately, stating concerns and requesting their assistance in solving the communication problems, including "to agree to disagree". If this were not accepted, I would approach city manager (or their reference to another City official) for assistance; may require mediation services.

How would you handle a situation where a proposal comes before your board/committee/commission that the City staff finds consistent with City policies and standards, but that you personally do not support?

As a selected member of the PAC, having been chosen by the City, it is clear that my priority would be to fulfill my role as described and anticipated, whether I am in agreement with their wishes. My personal opinion in disagreement would be voiced to them (not publicly), while realizing that the ultimate policies and standards adopted by the City takes precedence over my involvement. Otherwise, I would be an ineffective committee member.

I certify that I have thoroughly read and understand all material in this application.

Applicant's Signature: 

Applicant's Name (PLEASE PRINT): Barbava A. Harris

Date: 11/10/25

**Barbara Harris** .....



**Docent Coordinator, Oliver Ranch, Geyserville, CA**

- Training /scheduling volunteer docents per tours of site specific sculptures



**Communications Director, Voigt Family Sculpture Foundation, Geyserville, CA**

- Writing, editing, and distribution of all materials for selection and installation of large public art sculptures countywide;
- Promotion of annual exhibits at Paradise Ridge Winery



**Art Production Coordinator, Becoming Independent, Santa Rosa, CA**

- Management and promotion of artwork created by artists with developmental disabilities;
- Fund development, special events, marketing/public relations;
- Purchase of supplies/materials;
- Involvement with community organizations (public and private);
- Design of agency logo



**Manager, The Gallery of Sea and Heaven, Becoming Independent**

- Production and installation of 6 exhibits annually, including community artists;
- Management of eight studios and artists;
- Oversight of annual budget;
- Supervision of staff, volunteers, vendors and subcontractors;
- Leadership and implementation, SOFA (South of A) Arts District events



**Instructor, Graphic Design, Santa Rosa Junior College, CA**

- Adjunct faculty: design and visual communications;
- Member, Santa Rosa Junior College Computer Studies Advisory Committee



**Executive Director, Cultural Arts Council of Sonoma County, CA**

- Enforced mandates of California Arts Council State/Local Partnership;
- Represented Sonoma County Board of Supervisors and Sonoma County cities;
- Responsible for all programs: (e.g., ARTrails Open Studios, County of Sonoma Sheriff's Department Gang Task Force murals and intervention, First Night Santa Rosa, Cotati Accordion Festival, Sonoma County Book Fair), galleries, arts education, countywide calendar of events, budget, artist's resource center, Board of Directors, staff and volunteers



**Art Studio Manager, Chop's Teen Center, Santa Rosa, CA**



**Professional jeweler, illustrator, calligrapher; graphic artist; arts administrator**

- Design and production of promotional materials for three annual events;
- Management of business practices per self employment, retail sales

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- 2. Persons with experience in the public art field as either an artist, installer or designer.
- 3. Members of the general public.
- 4. A member of the Design Review Board.

**Which category is being applied for? (Check all that apply)**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Name: Kierston Aiello

Home Address, City, State and Zip Code:  
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Home Phone Number: [REDACTED]

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?  
 Yes       No

Work Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?  
 Yes       No

Facsimile Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?  
 Yes       No

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

If appointed, do you want this address to be visible to the public?  
 Yes       No

Are you a registered voter in Sebastopol?  
 Yes       No  
If so, for how long? 4 years

Do you hold a current business license from the City of Sebastopol?

Yes  No

If so, for how long? \_\_\_\_\_

Have you attended a meeting of this body? When?

No \_\_\_\_\_

Have you served on, interviewed for, or applied for this body previously?

Yes  No

If so, when? No \_\_\_\_\_

Present Employer:  \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: Operations Assistant \_\_\_\_\_

Have you previously served on any governmental bodies or held elected office? If so please list position held and dates:

No

Please list civic or charitable organization to which you belong or have belonged:

None

Have you been an officer in any of these organizations? If so, please list position held and dates:

None

What special interests, skills and talents would you bring to this board, commission, or committee?

I have been a practicing artist for 15 years, specializing in metalsmithing and jewelry. I hold a degree in Art with a particular focus on Public Art and American Craft, as well as a Certificate of Study in Museum and Gallery Studies. In addition to my arts background, I am an active community member and regularly volunteer with Food for Thought, the Richmond Art Center, and Gravenstein Elementary where my 10 year old attends. Before my current work, I served as the Lead Designer and Product Development Manager for a local jewelry manufacturer. I have a working knowledge of a wide range of artistic mediums and have been involved with, or am familiar with, many local arts organizations. I am organized, experienced in project management and all aspects of Operations, and am deeply committed to helping maintain Sebastopol as a vibrant, inclusive, and creative community.

Please list any college, professional or vocational schools you have attended with major subject studied, dates and any earned degrees:

Humboldt State University- Bachelor's Degree- Art (History and Studio) 2014

- Received Research Grant for Metalsmithing
- President of Small Metals Club
- Certificate in Museum and Gallery Studies

Please list any special awards or recognition you have received:

- Best New Product, Interweave Publishing 2023
- Top 5 Emerging Artists, Interweave Publications 2022
- Visiting Alumni Artist, Humboldt State 2022
- Undergraduate Research Grant, Humboldt State 2014

Please state why you would like to become a member of this board, commission or Committee, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this body:

I am applying to the Public Arts Board because I care deeply about the role art plays in creating a welcoming, inspiring, and culturally rich community. As a long-time practicing artist and volunteer, I have seen firsthand how public art can strengthen neighborhoods, spark conversations, and make people feel more connected to where they live.

My goal as a board member would be to help support projects that elevate local voices, celebrate Sebastopol's unique character, and ensure the arts remain accessible to people of all ages and backgrounds. I would also work toward building stronger collaborations between artists, schools, nonprofits, and city programs.

Are you associated with any organization/employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

Yes      No

If yes, please state name of organization/employment: \_\_\_\_\_

City policy directs all appointed, advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest such as property ownership near a project, or a financial relationship with the applicant. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes      No

How did you hear about this opening?

An email from the Sebastopol Business Center.

Is there any other information that you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application and materials provided with the application?

I would also like the Council to know that I bring both an artist's perspective and practical administrative experience. My background in product development, project management, and community volunteering allows me to approach public art with creativity as well as an understanding of timelines, budgets, and collaborative processes.

At the same time, I am deeply invested in the long-term health of Sebastopol's arts community. As both a practicing artist and an engaged parent and volunteer, I care about creating spaces where creativity is encouraged and where families feel connected to the arts. I see this board position as an opportunity to help nurture a vibrant, inclusive artistic environment that reflects and enriches the character of our community for years to come.

What do you think qualifies you to be appointed to this board/committee/commission?

I am qualified for this board because I bring a blend of artistic experience, project management skills, and community involvement. As a practicing artist, I understand both the creative and cultural value of public art. My work as a Product Development Manager has given me practical experience with budgeting, timelines, and collaborative projects. In addition, my volunteer work in the community keeps me connected to local needs and perspectives. Together, these experiences prepare me to contribute meaningfully to the board's work.

Are there particular issues you think the board/committee/commission should concentrate on?

I believe the board should prioritize public art that is engaging, thought-provoking, and reflective of the full diversity of our community. Public art has the power to spark conversation, create shared experiences, and help people feel seen and represented. I would like to see the board focus on projects that elevate a wide range of voices—including those that have historically been underrepresented—and that highlight the cultural, generational, and artistic diversity that makes Sebastopol unique.

By supporting work that is both visually compelling and rooted in meaningful perspectives, we can strengthen community connections and ensure that our public spaces feel welcoming and inclusive. Thoughtful public art can serve as a bridge between residents, visitors, and the shared history and values of our city, fostering a sense of belonging for everyone.

How should community comments be integrated into the board/committee/commission decision-making process?

Community comments should play a meaningful role in the board's decision-making process, as public art is most effective when it reflects the people who experience it every day. I believe feedback should be gathered in a clear and accessible way—through regular forums, surveys, or community outreach—so the board can stay informed about the community's values and interests.

Rather than driving every decision, community input should serve as a guiding perspective that helps shape priorities and highlight themes the board may want to consider. This includes making space for the voices of younger generations, whose viewpoints are essential in ensuring that public art remains relevant, forward-thinking, and reflective of the community's future.

By thoughtfully considering community feedback, including the insights of local youth, the board can make well-rounded decisions that support inclusive, meaningful public art for Sebastopol.

If appointed, how would you handle it if another board/committee/commission member vehemently disagrees with your comments on a regular basis?

If another board member regularly and passionately disagreed with me, I'd start by remind myself that lively debate is part of the deal. I'd make an effort to really listen to their point of view—sometimes people just want to feel heard before any progress can happen.

I'd keep things focused on the ideas, not the personalities, and try to stay calm even if the conversation gets spirited. And if it became a pattern, I'd probably suggest a friendly one-on-one chat to clear the air. Sometimes a simple conversation (and maybe a cup of coffee) can work wonders.

At the end of the day, we're all there for the same reason: to support the community and help create great public art. I f we can keep that shared purpose in mind—and maybe keep a sense of humor—we can disagree without derailing the work.

How would you handle a situation where a proposal comes before your board/committee/commission that the City staff finds consistent with City policies and standards, but that you personally do not support?

If a proposal met City policies and standards but I personally didn't support it, I'd remind myself that my role is to serve the community and uphold the guidelines we're given—not just my own preferences. I would share my concerns respectfully and clearly, focusing on specific reasons rather than personal taste, and then listen to how the rest of the board and staff interpret the proposal.

If, after discussion, the project is still clearly aligned with City policies, I would acknowledge that and respect the process. Part of serving on a board is recognizing that not every decision will match my individual perspective, and that's okay. My goal would be to help ensure that the outcome supports what is best for the city's character—its sense of identity, inclusiveness, and creative spirit—even if it's not exactly what I would have personally chosen.

Ultimately, it's about doing what serves the community as a whole, preserving what makes Sebastopol unique, and working within the framework we're all committed to—not just what I happen to prefer.

I certify that I have thoroughly read and understand all material in this application.

Applicant's Signature : *Kierston Aiello*

Applicant's Name (PLEASE PRINT): Kierston Aiello

Date: 11/12/2025

The City Council will consider the following categories:

- 1. Active members of a City-based, art focused, registered nonprofit organization, entity or facility.
- 2. Persons with experience in the public art field as either an artist, installer or designer.
- 3. Members of the general public.
- 4. A member of the Design Review Board.

**Which category is being applied for? (Check all that apply)**

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Name: Nicole Letaw

Home Address, City, State and Zip Code:  
[REDACTED]

Home Phone Number: [REDACTED]

If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?  
 Yes       No

Work Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?  
 Yes       No

Facsimile Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
If appointed, do you want this number to be visible to the public?  
 Yes       No

E-Mail Address: [REDACTED]

If appointed, do you want this address to be visible to the public?  
 Yes       No

Are you a registered voter in Sebastopol?  
 Yes       No  
If so, for how long? 3+ years

Do you hold a current business license from the City of Sebastopol?

Yes       No

If so, for how long? 3+ years

Have you attended a meeting of this body? When?

No

Have you served on, interviewed for, or applied for this body previously?

Yes       No

If so, when? \_\_\_\_\_

Present Employer:  \_\_\_\_\_

Job Title: Art Producer

Have you previously served on any governmental bodies or held elected office? If so please list position held and dates:

N/A

Please list civic or charitable organization to which you belong or have belonged:

N/A

Have you been an officer in any of these organizations? If so, please list position held and dates:

N/A

What special interests, skills and talents would you bring to this board, commission, or committee?

I bring more than fifteen years of experience leading creative production, curating artwork, and managing multidisciplinary art teams at organizations such as Weta FX, Lucasfilm, and Magic Leap. I am skilled at collaborating with diverse stakeholders, commissioning artists, and guiding creative work that reflects community values. As someone who is relatively new to Sebastopol, I am deeply invested in learning from and contributing to the community's cultural landscape. I would bring both professional expertise and genuine local engagement to the Public Arts Committee.

Please list any college, professional or vocational schools you have attended with major subject studied, dates and any earned degrees:

Florida International University 2001 - 2005 Bachelors in Journalism and Minor in Visual Arts

Please list any special awards or recognition you have received:

Please state why you would like to become a member of this board, commission or Committee, including what specific objectives you would be working toward as a member of this body:

I would like to serve on the Public Arts Committee because I believe public art strengthens community identity and fosters meaningful local engagement. As a newer resident, I am committed to contributing to Sebastopol's creative landscape and supporting projects that reflect the town's values. My focus would be on elevating local artists, ensuring clear and thoughtful project planning, and helping steward public art that is accessible, community-informed, and lasting.

Are you associated with any organization/employment that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed to this position?

Yes       No

If yes, please state name of organization/employment: \_\_\_\_\_

City policy directs all appointed, advisory body members not to vote on matters where there exists a potential conflict of interest such as property ownership near a project, or a financial relationship with the applicant. Would you be willing to abstain from voting if such a conflict arises?

Yes       No

How did you hear about this opening?

City Council Meeting

Is there any other information that you feel would be useful to the City Council in reviewing your application and materials provided with the application?

I would simply add that my career has centered on supporting artists, managing creative processes, and guiding visual work that serves a larger community or narrative purpose. I approach collaboration with transparency, professionalism, and respect for diverse perspectives. I am committed to contributing those strengths locally and to supporting Sebastopol's creative and cultural vitality.

What do you think qualifies you to be appointed to this board/committee/commission?

I am a Sebastopol resident with more than fifteen years of experience leading art production, supporting artists, and managing complex creative projects for major studios and organizations. My background in curating artwork, commissioning creators, and facilitating collaborative, community-aligned visual work directly aligns with the responsibilities of this committee. I bring a strong mix of creative judgment, operational rigor, and a sincere commitment to contributing to the cultural life of the town.

Are there particular issues you think the board/committee/commission should concentrate on?

I believe the committee should focus on creating opportunities for new and emerging artists to contribute to Sebastopol's public art landscape. Expanding the diversity of artistic voices will strengthen the town's cultural identity and support its creative community. I also think the committee should prioritize projects that make public spaces more welcoming and enjoyable for residents and visitors alike, enhancing the overall experience of our town.

How should community comments be integrated into the board/committee/commission decision-making process?

Community input should be gathered early and consistently through clear, accessible channels such as public meetings, surveys, and open comment periods. Feedback should be summarized, reviewed, and incorporated into project criteria so that decisions reflect the community's values and priorities. This helps ensure that public art projects are both widely supported and genuinely connected to the people they serve.

If appointed, how would you handle it if another board/committee/commission member vehemently disagrees with your comments on a regular basis?

I would approach recurring disagreements with professionalism, openness, and respect. My focus would be on listening carefully, seeking clarification, and grounding discussions in shared goals rather than personal viewpoints. If needed, I would work to find common ground or compromise, and ensure that differing perspectives contribute constructively to the committee's decisions. I believe healthy dialogue strengthens outcomes when handled with patience and civility

How would you handle a situation where a proposal comes before your board/committee/commission that the City staff finds consistent with City policies and standards, but that you personally do not support?

If a proposal aligns with City policies and standards but I personally do not support it, I would focus on my role as a board member to uphold the community's best interests. I would carefully review the proposal, ask questions to clarify any concerns, and engage in a fair discussion with fellow members. While I may have a personal preference, I would base my input and vote on objective criteria, policy guidance, and the broader benefit to the community.

I certify that I have thoroughly read and understand all material in this application.

Applicant's Signature : Nicole Letaw

Applicant's Name (PLEASE PRINT): Nicole Letaw

Date: 12/11/2025