

Call for Sculptors

for Sebastopol Community Sculpture Garden (CSG)

City of Sebastopol - Public Arts Committee

7120 Bodega Avenue Sebastopol, California 95472

Date: September 28, 2026

The City of Sebastopol Public Arts Committee is seeking proposals from Sonoma, Mendocino, Lake, Napa, and Marin County-based sculptors for the design, fabrication, and installation of durable and low-maintenance original public art suitable for placement in the Sebastopol Community Sculpture Garden (CSG), Ives Park, Sebastopol, CA.

<https://www.cityofsebastopol.gov/public-art/community-sculpture-garden/>

Submission Deadline: November 9, 2026, 4:00 pm

Project Contact: planning@cityofsebastopol.gov, (707) 823-6167

About Sebastopol

Sebastopol, located in Sonoma County, California, was incorporated in 1902. Sebastopol is a 'general law' Council-Manager City with five Council members elected at large. There are four Boards and Commissions, including the Public Arts Committee (PAC).

Sebastopol has a unique and highly valued small-town character. An incorporated City of 7,600 residents located in the San Francisco/North Bay region, Sebastopol is the hub of west Sonoma County, which is known as a creative center within the County. While the incorporated area is small, Sebastopol serves a much larger unincorporated area stretching to the Pacific Ocean and the Russian River. Persons with a Sebastopol mailing address number over 25,000. The City's market area comprises a population of approximately 40,000-50,000 people, who, to varying degrees, use Sebastopol as their hub for goods, services, and recreational and cultural activities. The town thus has far more economic activity, as well as recreational and cultural services, than would be apparent based simply on the incorporated area's population.

The City has an extraordinary geographic location, being surrounded by farmland, vineyards, orchards, and wetlands, located minutes from the Sonoma Coast and the Russian River area, just 60 miles north of San Francisco. Sebastopol is at the crossroads of two State Highways, Highways 116 and 12, and is eight miles from Sonoma County's largest city, Santa Rosa.



Project Description

Selected sculpture(s) will be installed in the Sebastopol Community Sculpture Garden for a duration of two years from installation (Ending 2029).

There will be No Jurying Fee.

The City of Sebastopol provides the infrastructure for the work, including sculpture pads, site signage, site delineation, site improvements, and installation assistance.

The PAC will determine the selection and placement of the selected sculpture(s).

Artists will be responsible for installation, maintenance, and removal of artwork; installation and removal will be in coordination with the Sebastopol Public Works Department.

If a sculpture is sold, proceeds will be divided as follows: 25% to the City for project support and infrastructure, 75% to the artist. Artists have successfully sold works directly from their display in the Sculpture Garden, and the City will be adding QR codes to site signage in the future to easily connect visitors to artwork and artist details.

Artists will be responsible for the removal and transportation of the sculpture at the conclusion of the two-year term.

Project Objectives

Recognition, appreciation, and encouragement of the creativity of the communities aforementioned

Opportunity for the display of sculpture not commissioned by the City, but juried and selected by the PAC for the sculpture garden

To provide a specific context and location for residents and visitors to enjoy the efforts of area sculptors, and for those artists to have a specific location to display non-commissioned artwork

Foster a sense of beauty, multi-layered meaning, or have other compelling attributes

Be appropriate for a public space

Help create attractive public places

Enhance the pedestrian environment

Foster cultural understanding



Project Requirements

Be durable, safe, and low-maintenance, appropriate for long-term installation outdoors in a location open to public traffic.

Sculpture, and base if included, designed to be bolted securely by the sculptor to a concrete platform provided by the City. Sculpture size to be appropriate to the setting and durability.

No logos, specific historic figures, mascots, or any expressions of hate are to be used.

Sculpture is already fabricated or confirmed to be ready for installation in early 2027.

Site

Area 2 in Ives Park Renovation Master Plan map: “#2: Install sculpture garden along entry walk from South High Street.” The area is approximately 250 feet long by 20 to 35 feet wide.

See Attached Site Plan Map.*

Sculpture Pads are 3 feet 8 inches squared. There are currently two (2) pads available.

Eligibility

This competition is open to sculptors living in Sonoma, Mendocino, Lake, Napa, and Marin Counties. While intended to foster regional artist promotion, the PAC will consider submissions from wider geographic areas on a case-by-case basis.

The PAC may choose to designate some of the sculpture sites for work from specific individual artists or arts organizations.

Selection Criteria

The art concept will be evaluated based on appropriateness to the site, aesthetic quality, durability, stability, maintenance requirements, and safety considerations.

The selected artists must, if necessary, be available to meet with City staff, Public Works, the Public Arts Committee, and, if needed, the City Council.

An agreement with the selected artists will establish a minimum number of such meetings.



Durability, Maintenance, and Safety: All applicants, please read this section carefully

The durability, maintenance requirements, and safety of the sculpture submitted for this project are essential elements in the selection process.

Selected sculpture(s) will be exposed to the area's physical elements and public traffic.

All applicants are expected to consider the issues of long-term durability, cleanability, resilience, and low or no maintenance. The project is located outside on the lawn of a popular public park adjacent to downtown Sebastopol. It will be exposed to weather, physical and environmental stresses, as well as potential vandalism. The project should be fabricated of highly durable, low-maintenance materials and be of sound construction, ensuring stability. Keep in mind that larger pieces may be more resistant to vandalism. Selected sculptors are strongly encouraged to apply an anti-graffiti coating to their finished artwork. The environmental effects of this project, during and after installation, should also be considered. The City will ensure conformity with city standards of maintenance, durability, and public safety considerations.

Selection Process

The City Council will confirm selections.

Selected artists will be required to sign a Liability Waiver before installation

(See Attached)

Project Timeline

Call Released: **September 28, 2026**

Submissions Due: **November 9, 2026, 4:00 pm**

Sculptures Selected for Display: **November 19, 2026**

Sculptures Approved for Display by City Council: **TBD**

Installation of Sculptures Selected for Display: **Early 2027**

Selected sculptors may be asked to attend a PAC meeting to discuss their proposed sculpture.

Submission Requirements

Your submission can be sent electronically and should include the following, provided in the order listed.

1. A Letter of Interest. Not more than one typed page. Describe your interest in this project.
2. Art description/depiction. Please describe in text your concept for this project (250-word maximum) and provide a sketch or more specific visual image. If the sculpture is already assembled, please provide pictures from at least three (3) angles.
3. Indicate how your sculpture, and base if included, will be attached, secured, and stabilized on the pedestal.
4. The artist's name and title of sculpture should appear on all materials submitted.
5. Confirmation that your sculpture will be ready for installation in the CSG in early 2027.

Financial information

Artists are responsible for all expenses involved in their sculpture, including:

1. Proposal submission, communications, fabrication, transportation, installation, insurance, maintenance, and final removal from the site.
2. Sebastopol City and PAC will provide:
 - a. One pedestal for each sculpture selected for the duration of the project's display period.
 - b. Maintenance of the physical grounds of the CSG.
 - c. General notification and publicity regarding the opening event.

Please note

Respondents to this call do so at their sole expense.

All submittals will become property of the City.

Do not submit materials you would want returned.

Incomplete or unresponsive submittals may be rejected.

Prospective sculptors shall not contact the Public Arts Committee or City Council members about this call without specific authorization from City staff. Doing so may be grounds for disqualification.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to cancel or alter the selection process at its sole discretion.

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Questions

The Public Arts Committee is managing this project. Any questions about the call may be directed via email to: planning@cityofsebastopol.gov

Site Plan Map

Ives Park, High Street Entry



Activity description (describe in detail the type of event/activity and the tools that may be used to perform the activity):

I further agree to indemnify and to hold the above City of Sebastopol, its officers, officials, employees, and volunteers free and harmless from any loss, liability, damage, cost or expense which they may incur as a result of any injury and/or property damage that I may sustain while participating in said activity.

(Each participant must personally sign.)

Street Address, City, Zip Code	Phone Number
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If applicant is under age 18, parent/guardian must complete the following: As parent/guardian of this minor, I have reviewed the General Agreement, Waiver, and Release form and give my consent for:

To participate in the said activity description listed above subject to the terms and conditions expressed herein and above.

Street Address, City, Zip Code Phone Number