

WHAT WE DO



Purpose & Vision

The San Rafael Arts' mission is to create a dynamic and inspiring downtown arts district that stimulates the cultural and economic life of San Rafael. We will:

- Foster unity through the arts
- Support arts and culture as key drivers of health, quality of life, and economic vitality
- Champion access and participation for all community members



California Cultural District

The San Rafael Arts District is one of only 24 designated California Cultural Districts. Established in 2017, the District has been championed by Art Works Downtown, California Film Institute, the Downtown Business Improvement District, Marin Society of Artists, Youth In Arts, and the City of San Rafael. The District was awarded a \$709,000 grant in 2023 by the California Arts Council (CAC).



District Activities

All arts activities in Downtown contribute to the District's vitality. The California Arts Council grant is administered by core coalition of arts partners and the City of San Rafael. The steering committee prioritizes projects based on community impact, inclusivity, community ownership and cross-organizational partnerships. Between June 2023 and March July 2026, the District has established a working collaborative, strategic plan, and funded over 30 cultural events and projects.



Why It Matters

Public investment in the arts builds stronger, more inclusive communities. It provides economic uplift, educational enrichment, and cultural vibrancy. As a top-3 ranked medium-sized U.S. arts community (SMU DataArts, 2024), San Rafael stands at the forefront of civic arts leadership.



THE **SAN RAFAEL ARTS** IS A COLLABORATION AMONG ARTS AND CULTURE ORGANIZATIONS BUSINESSES, THE CITY OF SAN RAFAEL AND THE COMMUNITY WE SERVE.

BY **AMPLIFYING** LOCAL **ARTS AND CULTURE**, WE STRIVE TO ADVANCE **ECONOMIC VITALITY** AND THE **QUALITY OF LIFE** IN **SAN RAFAEL**.



JOIN US

Collaborators, artists, and funders are encouraged to engage with DSRAD's evolving programs. Your involvement fuels inclusive creative expression, civic pride, and a vibrant downtown for all.



www.sanrafaelarts.org

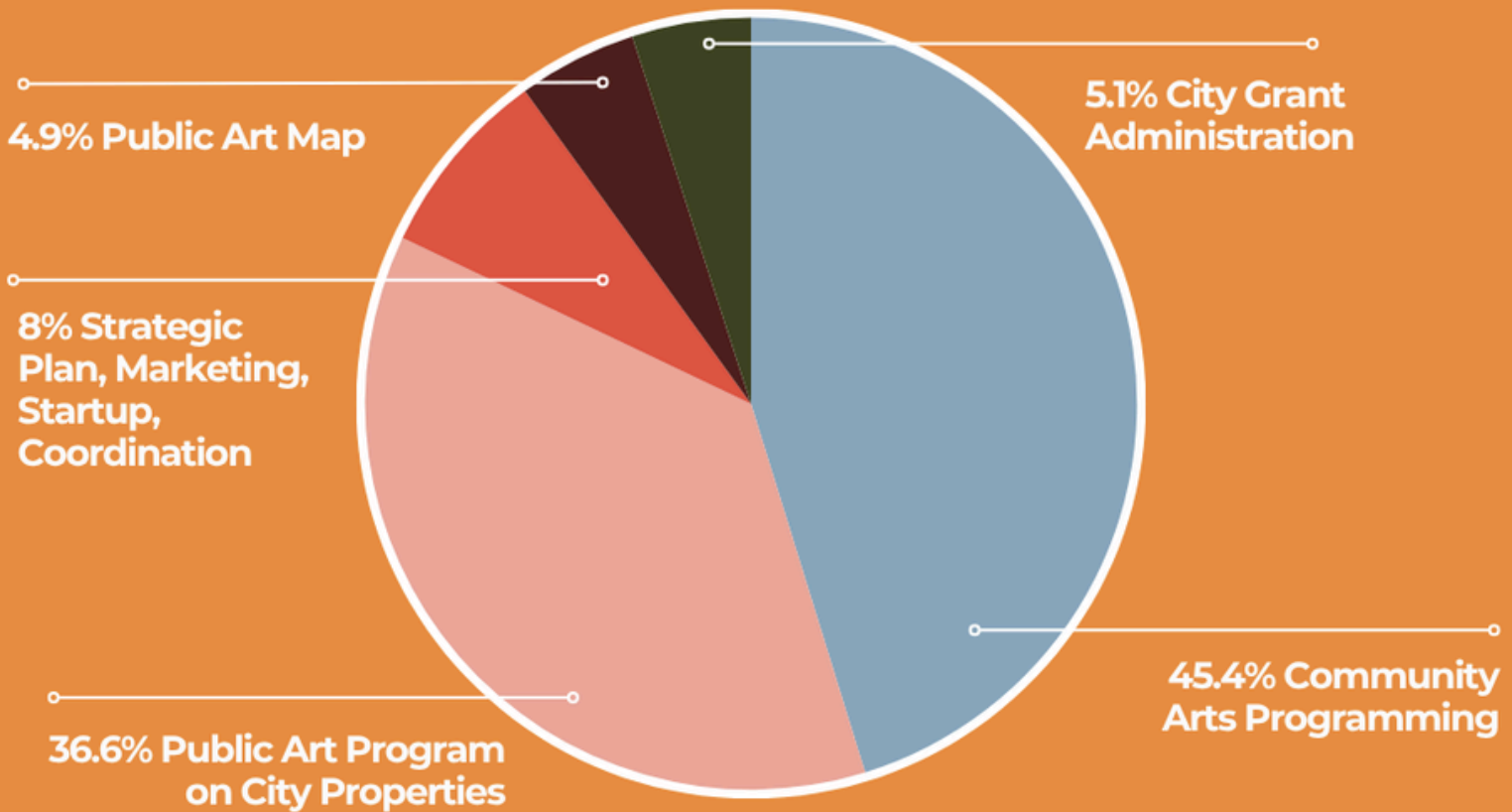


info@sanrafaelarts.org



Reach out to a core partner organization

Budget Pie Chart



The California Arts Council grant is administered by a core coalition of stakeholders and the City of San Rafael

Original Stakeholder Organizations:

- Art Works Downtown
- California Film Institute
- Downtown Business Improvement District / Chamber of Commerce
- Marin Society of Artists
- Youth In Arts

Additional Stakeholder Organizations (added 2025):

- Community Media Center of Marin
- Marin Shakespeare Company
- Multicultural Center of Marin

Additional Grant Recipients:

- Agricultural Institute of Marin / San Rafael Summer Market
- Canal Alliance / The Canal Arts
- Commune.CO
- Local Edition Creative
- Marin MOCA
- Metta Yoga
- Multicultural Center of Marin / Dia de los Muertos
- Roots of Cumbia
- San Rafael Festival of the Arts / Bay Area Pop Up Events
- San Rafael PorchFest
- Seismic Switch Inc.

Downtown San Rafael Arts District



Key Accomplishments 2023–2026

Category	Initiatives / Locations / Art Works	Year
Strategic Planning	Strategic Plan for new District activation and management	2023–2024
Mapping & Resources	Produced San Rafael Arts & Culture Map (with Marin County Cultural Services), including Public Art and Non-Profit map of cultural resources	2024
Public Art & Installations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canal Alliance HQ (The Canal Arts) <i>Threads of Unity</i> • San Pedro Elementary (Marin Society of Artists) • 1001 4th Street (Art Works Downtown) <i>Civic Wave</i> • Marin Society of Artists HQ • San Rafael Public Library (Youth In Arts) <i>Universe of Imagination</i> • Multicultural Center of Marin HQ • Art Works Downtown HQ <i>Make Art Not War</i> • Metta Yoga Community Mural 	2023–2026
Signature Initiative	Public Art Program – transformation of 5 public sites via murals & sculptures. Led by Local Edition Creative. Fully grant-funded (\$260,000)	2025–2026
Youth & Community Engagement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Films (Youth In Arts + California Film Institute) <u>Wall of Voices</u> and <u>Splash of Color</u> • Young Artists for the Planet Environmental Mural (Marin MOCA) 	2023 2025 2025
Major Events & Festivals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Día De Los Muertos Altars (Multicultural Center of Marin) • Mill Valley Film Festival & DocLands (CA Film Institute) • C Street Celebrations (Youth In Arts) • San Rafael PorchFest • DSRAD Fall Arts Launch • Dancing Under the Lights (Downtown BID) • San Rafael Festival of the Arts (Downtown BID) 	2023 & 2024 2023 – 2025 2024 – 2025 2025 2023 2025 2025

