

## WHAT WE DO



### Purpose & Vision

The Downtown San Rafael Arts District's 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 Downtown San Rafael Arts District is one of only 14 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).



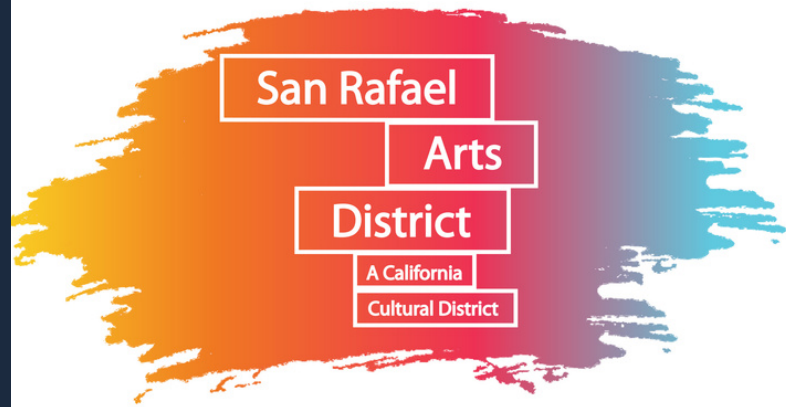
### District Activities

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 June 2025, the District has established a working collaborative, strategic plan, and funded over 25 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 DOWNTOWN  
SAN RAFAEL ARTS DISTRICT  
IS A COLLABORATION  
AMONG ARTS AND CULTURE  
ORGANIZATIONS  
BUSINESSES, THE CITY OF  
SAN RAFAEL AND THE  
COMMUNITY WE SERVE.**

**BY AMPLIFYING  
ARTS AND CULTURE,  
WE STRIVES 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.dsrad.org/contact-us](http://www.dsrad.org/contact-us)



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Reach out to a core partner organization

# Downtown San Rafael Arts District



## Key Accomplishments 2023–2025

| Category                                | Initiatives / Locations / Art Works                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Year                                                                                     |
|-----------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Strategic Planning</b>               | Strategic Plan for new District activation and management                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  | 2023–2024                                                                                |
| <b>Mapping &amp; Resources</b>          | Produced San Rafael Arts & Culture Map (with Marin County Cultural Services), including Public Art and Non-Profit map of cultural resources                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                | 2024                                                                                     |
| <b>Public Art &amp; Installations</b>   | Canal Alliance HQ (The Canal Arts) <u>Threads of Unity</u><br>San Pedro Elementary (Marin Society of Artists)<br>1001 4th Street (Art Works Downtown) <u>Civic Wave</u><br>Marin Society of Artists HQ<br>San Rafael Public Library (Youth In Arts) <u>Universe of Imagination</u><br>Multicultural Center of Marin HQ ( <i>pending</i> )<br>Art Works Downtown HQ <u>Make Art Not War</u> | 2023–2025                                                                                |
| <b>Signature Initiative</b>             | Public Art Program – transformation of 5 public sites via murals & sculptures. Led by Local Edition Creative. Fully grant-funded (\$250,000).                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | 2025–2026                                                                                |
| <b>Youth &amp; Community Engagement</b> | Films (Youth In Arts + California Film Institute) <u>Wall of Voices</u> and <u>Splash of Color</u><br>Young Artists for the Planet Environmental Mural (Marin MOCA)                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | 2023<br>2025<br><br>2025                                                                 |
| <b>Major Events &amp; Festivals</b>     | Día De Los Muertos Altars (Multicultural Center of Marin)<br>Mill Valley Film Festival & DocLands (California Film Institute)<br>C Street Celebrations (Youth In Arts)<br>San Rafael PorchFest<br>Art Walks & Community Arts Festivals<br>Fall Arts Launch<br>Dancing Under the Lights (Downtown BID)<br>San Rafael Festival of the Arts (Downtown BID)                                    | 2023 & 2024<br>2023 & 2024<br>2024 - 2025<br>2025<br>2023 - 2025<br>2023<br>2025<br>2025 |

