


Agenda Report Reviewed by:  
 City Manager: 

CITY OF SEBASTOPOL  
 CITY COUNCIL  
 AGENDA ITEM

**Meeting Date:** August 3, 2021  
**To:** Honorable Mayor and Honorable City Councilmembers  
**From:** Kari Svanstrom, Planning Director  
 City Administration  
**Subject:** Interview for Opening on the Public Arts Committee  
**Recommendation :** That the Mayor and City Council Interview Applicants (Appointment to be made later in the agenda)  
**Funding:** Currently Budgeted: \_\_\_\_\_ Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No XX N/A  
 Net General Fund Cost: N/A  
 Amount: \$0

Account Code/Costs authorized in City Approved Budget (if applicable) AK (verified by Administrative Services Department)

**INTRODUCTION:** This item is to request that the City Council Interview Applicants for the Opening on the Public Arts Committee (Appointment to be made later in the agenda).

**BACKGROUND:**

The City of Sebastopol Public Arts Committee consists of five voting members with the criteria for a City of Sebastopol Public Arts Committee Member as listed below. Terms of office for each of the Committee members shall be four-year, staggered terms. Said Committee shall be comprised of five members as follows:

*Members of the Committee shall be appointed by the City Council.*

*Prior to making any appointments, the City Council will seek the input and nominations for potential Committee members from City of Sebastopol based registered non-profit art organizations, entities, facilities, schools, etc.*

*Preference will be shown to City of Sebastopol 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.*

- 1) *One member shall be an active member of a City of Sebastopol based, art focused, registered non-profit organization, entity or facility*
- 2) *Two members shall be persons with experience in the public art field as either an artist, installer or designer.*
- 3) *One member shall be a member of the general public.*
- 4) *The Council shall appoint a member of the Design Review Board to serve on the Committee.*

*In the event suitable candidates satisfactory to the City Council in the above categories are not available to serve, the City Council may then select any person or persons in their discretion.*

The Committee shall maintain a registry of public art in the City and perform the duties required of this ordinance and any other ordinance or resolution of the City Council pertaining to the City of Sebastopol’s Public Art Program.

In addition to development related public art projects or public art projects funded by the Public Art Fund, the Committee shall review and provide recommendations to the City Council on Non-Development Generated Public Art projects.

The Public Arts Committee Members are as follows:

PAC MEMBER	TERM ENDING DATE	CATEGORY
JEN VERTZ, CHAIR	12/31/2021	2
VACANT	12/31/2021	1
JEFFREY STUCKER	12/31/2021	3
VICE CHAIR VARHE MILLS-THYSEN	6/30/2022	2
LARS LANGBERG	12/31/2021	4 (DRB Selection)

As noted in yellow highlight above, the opening occurred as of the resignation of Warren Arnold -

Category 1: Active members of a City-based, art focused, registered nonprofit organization, entity or facility. The recruitment will be to fill the remainder of Mr. Arnold’s term (December 31, 2021).

**DISCUSSION:**

City Staff initiated the public application process for the upcoming vacancy. Opening was noticed in the Sonoma West Times and News; City web site; Facebook, City newsletter and City email distribution list. As of the deadline the City received two applications for consideration. Interviews have been scheduled as follows:

Time of Interview	Name of Applicant
5:30 pm	Barbara Harris
5:45 pm	Richard Nichols

**GOALS:**

This item relates to City Council Goal 5: Provide open and responsive Municipal Government Leadership, as it communicates the CAC’s work to the Council and general community. It also relates to General Plan Goal CSF 6, policy SCF 6-1, Continue to maximize public participation in local government actions and maintain excellent levels of City government services.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:**

As of the writing of this staff report, the City has not received any public comment. However, staff anticipates receiving public comment from interested parties following the publication and distribution of this staff report.

Such comments will be provided to the City Council as supplemental materials before or at the meeting. In addition, public comments may be offered during the public comment portion of the agenda item.

**PUBLIC NOTICE:**

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

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

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

**RECOMMENDATION:** Staff recommends that the Mayor and Council conduct the interview(s) and consider appointment later in the agenda.

**Attachments:**

Applications

If you have questions about the function and role of members, talk with the City staff liaison to the board, committee or commission you are applying for. The City Clerk can provide contact information for City staff members who are assigned to work with the boards, committees and commissions. It is important to note that City staff members cannot and do not recommend or lobby for any applicant.

Find out City Council's priorities and interests. Attend City Council meetings and review meeting minutes. Council meeting videos are archived on the City's website <http://ci.sebastopol.ca.us/> and are available for purchase on DVD from the City Clerk's Office.

Review the Code of Ethics for Appointed and Elected Officials (the Brown Act), available by request from the City Clerk's Office and understand that if you are appointed to a board, committee or commission, you will be required to abide by it.

Prepare for the interview. Although we do not know what specific questions Council will ask, we suggest that you clarify for yourself why you are applying for a specific board, committee or commission, understand its role and function, and be familiar with the current issues it is examining.

Treat the interview with City Council as a business or job interview. Understand that the City Council is not only considering what experience, skills and talents you bring, they are interested in how you will represent the City.

**APPLICATION FOR CITY OF SEBASTOPOL BOARDS, COMMISSIONS & COMMITTEES**

Contact Information

Assistant City Manager/City Clerk, MMC  
Mary Gourley  
7120 Bodega Avenue  
P.O. Box 1776  
Sebastopol, CA 95473  
Mgourley@cityofsebastopol.org

phone: 707-823-1153  
fax: 707-823-1135

Office Hours: Monday - Thursday - 7:00 am - 5:30 pm (closed 12:00 pm - 1:00 pm for lunch)  
Closed every Friday

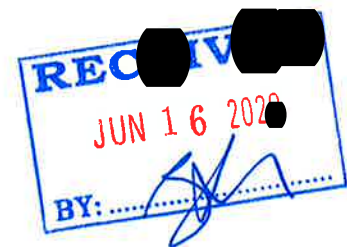
**Instructions:**

Use this form to apply to serve on any of the City of Sebastopol's Boards, Committees or Commissions. Please complete the entire form. If a question does not apply, please note as not applicable. Please deliver completed form, by the date and time due, to the City Clerk. All applications will be reviewed by the City Council. If appointed, you have a choice whether you wish to have your contact information visible to the public; however, your information may be made public upon request by (a) member(s) of the public.

Board, Commission, or Committee being applied for? **Public Arts**

Name: **Barbara A Harris**

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: [REDACTED]

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? 48 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?

**Yes; unknown date**  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

Yes  No

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

Present Employer: Retired

Job Title: Arts Administrator; Educator; Artist

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

**California Arts Council State/Local Partnership Program (1989-2000)**

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

**Chop's Teen Center, Becoming Independent (BI), and Marin Arts Council Advisory Committees; Sebastopol Center for the Arts Art at the Source Steering Committee; Sonoma County Library Visual Arts Committee; Sonoma County Sheriff Department Gang Task Force; Sonoma County Office of Education Arts Education Committee; Cotati Accordion Festival; Sonoma County Book Fair; Community Baptist Church Gospel Music Concert Steering Committee; South of A (SOFA) Arts District; Santa Rosa Junior College Communication Arts Advisory Committee**

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

**Chop's Teen Center, Vice Chair, 1984); BI (Chair, 1995); California Arts Council State/Local Partnership (Co-Chair, 1989-2000)**

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

**Lengthy, enthusiastic, and dedicated affiliations and leadership roles with local, regional, state, and national arts organizations; staff and volunteer management; knowledge of budgets, revenue and expenditures, fundraising; event preparation and production; copywriting and editing; curricula design, student supervision, teaching and research as Santa Rosa Junior College instructor, 32 years; Executive Director, Cultural Arts Council of Sonoma County, 1989-2000; Communications Director, Voigt Family Sculpture Foundation; Docent Coordinator, Oliver Ranch**

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

**University of Toledo (Ohio) English and Fine Arts major; New School for Social Research, New York, NY, painting; University of California at Berkeley, Vocational Education Teaching Credential; Santa Rosa Junior College, Applied Graphics and Illustration certificates**

Please list any special awards or recognition you have received:

**Redwood Empire American Association of Architects, Certificate of Appreciation; Santa Rosa Public Art Commission, Award of Coordination; Leadership Santa Rosa, Certificate of Arts Management; Sonoma State University, Award of Local Arts Coordination**

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:

**Art in public places means that the handmade works of art are literally visible, accessible and available, with the intention of welcoming participation from viewers. These opportunities create an outdoor gallery environment which reflects concerted commitment from the city of Sebastopol toward securing the sculptures for the enjoyment of participants. This is a measure of aesthetic involvement and partnership between artist, local government, residents and visitors as opportunity toward civic enrichment. Art to be seen is a benchmark of the cultural health and well being of our community. Thank you for this chance to be considered for inclusion on this committee.**

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?

**Sonoma West Times and News**

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 am a dedicated to actively remain involved with the arts. This committee further enhances this intention.

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

I know so many artists, appreciating their efforts while recognizing their challenges and points of view. I know so many residents (and visitors), appreciating their desires to access art. Art belongs where we all meet; truly speaking a common language.

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

Community involvement and education about the arts which to be viewed publicly; how to maintain clear guidelines while sustaining flexibility in decision making; awareness of the unique and possibly unforeseen aspects of public art which may not adhere to the norm; to understand that the obvious may instead be led by the surprise.

Conversations about art are meant to engage diversity.

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

Community comments are integrated by being made available as a priority. This happens when there are clear descriptions of what's to be considered. What is going on locally which prompts the consideration of art in public spaces. The library recently included a table of small scale, three dimensional examples of each of the pieces under consideration for placement in the front lawn area. The public could view these (rather than drawings and schematics), then were asked to make the decision as to what they would like to see fabricated and installed. This, in addition to further publicizing the art to be considered (newspaper, water bill, City newsletter) to alert the residents and solicit comments; Committee agenda to include appearances and/or comments; clear and concise directive that the final decision is to be made by the Committee (following the fully integrated community input).



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 this member directly, listening attentively and personally to instill trust and lack of competitiveness, encouraging conversation rather than confrontation.

If needed, I would request assistance from Committee chair to intervene. I would then, if necessary, request involvement from mediator. If none of these methods work, I would request that the Committee request this member's resignation since their lack of cooperation is adversely affecting the mission of the Committee.

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 thoroughly explain my stance with researched and valid statements of having decided support. I would refer to policies and standards as guidelines, yet announce that aesthetics may contribute more to these, augmenting existent process with additional opportunity for creative solution. This is a matter of each and all being educated. Often, information supersedes regulation.

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

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

Applicant's Name (PLEASE PRINT): Barbara A Harris

Date: June 10, 2020

## Application for the Sebastopol Public Arts Commission

Richard Nichols  
1389 Cooper Rd  
Sebastopol CA 95472

Home phone:  
707-823-4071

Do you want this number visible to the public?

No

Work #: N/A

Fac #: N/A

Email: rnichols@sonic.net

Do you want this available to the public?

No

Are you a registered voter in Sebastopol?

No, registered in the county since 1982.

Do you hold a current business license in Sebastopol?

No

Have you previously served on any governmental bodies or held elected office?

Sebastopol Laguna Advisory Committee member, mid 1980s

Civic or charitable organizations to which you belong or have belonged.

Sebastopol Center for the Arts  
Sebastopol Senior Center  
Western Sonoma County Historical Society  
Sebastopol walks  
Coastwalk California  
Sierra Club  
Sonoma County Conservation Action  
Peace and Justice Center

Laguna foundation  
California Trails Council  
Sonoma County Land Trust  
Land Paths  
KRCB radio

Have you been an officer in any of these organizations?

Coastwalk Board, 1983 - 1990  
Coastwalk executive Director, 1990 - 2006  
Founding Laguna Foundation Board member - mid 1980s  
Sebastopol Walks planning committee  
Conservation Action board member - mid 1990s.

What special interests, skills and talents would you bring to the arts Commission?

I am an active artist.  
I worked effectively with the Coastwalk Board of Directors for 25 years as a member and as the ED.

Special Awards or Recognition

2003 Western Environmental Award of Excellence from Sunset Magazine.  
2005 Community Award, Environmental Consciousness, from the Sebastopol Area Chamber of Commerce.  
Certificates of Recognition from County, State and Federal elected officials, Conservation Action, the Coastwalk Board.

Why I would like to be a member of the Arts Commission, and specific objectives.

I am interested in art and artists.

I make art.

I have been engaged in the political and civic life of Sebastopol since 1982. This would be the first time I would engage in official government decisions.

### Objectives

Support art that reflects Sebastopol's progressive and artistic values.

Explore having seven members on the Arts Commission.

Explore having more diversity on the commission: youth, people of color, LGBTQ.

Are you associated with any organization that that might be deemed a conflict of interest in performing your duties if appointed? no

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

How did you hear about this opening?

The Sebastopol City website and newsletter.

Other useful information and added materials.

I was accepted into the "Black and White" show currently up at the Sebastopol Center for the Arts.

Artist statement attached

What do you think qualifies you to be appointed to the Arts Commission?

I am an active artist working in abstract assemblage, collage and painting.  
I am active in the community.  
I worked with the Coastwalk Board for 35 years  
I worked with hundreds of volunteers as the Coastwalk ED.

Are there issues the Arts Commission should concentrate on?

Get the sculpture garden done.  
Explore sites in town for more art.  
Enlarge the Commission to seven members that would include more diversity.  
Explore conducting an Art Walk every year.

How should community comments be integrated into the Arts Commission decision making process?

Listen carefully for new ideas. If the ideas make sense, and fits into the issue at hand, work with the commission to see if the ideas can be accommodated in full or in part.  
Seek clarification and justification for ideas presented.

How would you handle it if another member vehemently disagrees with your comments on a regular basis?

First, look at my own comments or conduct to see how they might be offensive.  
Second, ask the member for clarification.  
Third, seek a resolution.  
Fourth, respectively agree to disagree if there is no resolution.

How would you handle a situation where a proposal comes before the Commission that the city staff finds consistent with city policy and standards, but that you personally do not support?

I would state my case if I thought the interpretation by staff was incorrect, then accept the majority vote.

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

Applicant's signature



Applicants name

RICHARD NICHOLS

date

7/14/21

## Artist Statement and Resume for the “Black and White” show at the Sebastopol Center for the Arts. Richard Nichols

I make non-representational assemblage, abstract painting, collage, and sometime combine all three. I also carry a camera on the many hikes my wife and I enjoy, and on occasion light and landscape comes together in a perfect composition. The photo in the show was taken in a park in Sonoma County at mid-morning in January, 2015. It was taken with my trusty Panasonic Lumix.

When I start on a piece of art I seldom know where it will go. With assemblage, the elements such as pieces of driftwood, scrap wood, junk, stones, or just about anything often come together without much effort. When I paint on canvas, masonite or wood, I might have an idea, but usually when I work on the composition, first layers, and the original idea disappears. I might layer on paint, sand it to expose the under layers, or add rocks or paper or drift wood. Spontaneity and process is my “method”. Combining paint, collage, and assemblage is an ongoing exploration.

I don't have an underlying art philosophy, except perhaps that my work — good, bad or ugly — is simply an item to be admired or ignored. I appreciate any response from admiration to confusion (my favorite) to ugh!

I have been making assemblage since the early 80's. Some of my friends from the 60s were artists, and I always wanted to make art, but not much happened until I was over 40.

Several years ago I met master AE painter Harry Cohen, who was 91 at the time and had been painting steadily for 70 years. He befriended me and after seeing some of my work, encouraged me to take art more seriously. His art is spontaneous and free. He was painting the day before he died at age 95.

I have been in several juried shows at the Sebastopol Center for the Arts, a solo show at the Peace and Justice Center and in the small works show at the now defunct Sonoma County Museum of Modern Art.

I have no formal art education.