



## SEBASTOPOL COMMUNITY CULTURAL CENTER

seb.org | 707-823-1511 | sccc@seb.org | 390 Morris St ~ Sebastopol, CA 95472

November 2018

### Annual Support Request

The Sebastopol Community Cultural Center, a non-profit organization, brings passionate instructors, dedicated students, musicians from far and wide and concert-goers together, as well as providing gathering spaces for many of the special events that go on in our town. Our long history over the years is powered by passion, momentum, and community values. You, as donors have been there every step of the way supporting these traditions.

The community center supports **ongoing programs** that have become a part of the cultural identity here in West County. We have instructors who have taught for over 20 years at the community center, their students sharing a common experience as a part of growing up here. Our wellness and fitness **classes** are community-oriented, affordable, and flexible. You, as donors help fund our activities and classes.

**Family traditions** like our Quinceañeras have been held at the community center for decades. Several of our staff even attended Quinceañeras and birthday parties at the center when they were teens. We are delighted to be a part of the local heritage.

The Center's cherished **concert** organizers have been bringing bands from around the world for over 25 years. Cloud Moss of Cumulus Presents, Jim Corbett (aka Mr. Music) of Peacetown and Kevin Russell, hold festivals, sing-alongs, and amazing concerts at the community center, year in, year out. These traditions define us. Many of our donors have expressed how this music tradition is one of their favorite parts of living in Sebastopol and coming to the community center. You, as donors enable us to invite talented and inspirational musicians from all over the world into our grand hall for your enjoyment.

The **concerts, classes, and services** offered at the community center need support from the local government and residents. We are very fortunate to be a long-term partner of the **City of Sebastopol**. The sales taxes paid in Sebastopol directly enable the city's ability to support 20% of our operating budget. This funding alone, however, isn't enough to sustain the programming, and ***donations are critical***. Your donations will help us hit our goal to support 20% of our operating expenses.

Funding goals for all those great classes, concerts, & projects:





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**Preserving our traditions** is carefully balanced with incubating new ideas and programs that our community wants and needs. We listen to the needs of our local government (city and county), our schools, other local non-profits, and service groups. The community center works to support them in their agendas, collaborating and pulling together resources, complementing each other's work, creating new community center programs and services to meet these needs. Over the years, your donations have enabled the community center to take a lead on sorely needed community projects, --- the Super Playground, TeensWork, after-school programs, summer camps, and Analy and Brookhaven tennis court rejuvenation projects, to name a few.

There was a period of time where there were fewer and fewer kids and teens in our area, and the offerings to our young families slowly dwindled. Now we see more and more families bringing their children to Sebastopol schools, and families moving back into the area. **Suddenly, we've got kids again!** Our current new projects are focused on dialing up the offerings that our families are requesting – support for young families, summer camps, dances, and after-school enrichments. We are looking forward to offering more programs supporting that revitalized youth and teen-age group, while still preserving our traditional offerings.

An example is our **Sebastopol Teen Club** project. At a City Council meeting in February, a group of teens came to the public comment ask for more after-school activities and places to gather. As big fans of collaboration, we saw an opportunity to stretch resources, use unoccupied space or unexplored possibilities, partnering with our friends at the Sebastopol Library, Cittaslow, Ives Pool, Sebastopol Center for the Arts, Ceres Community Project, Rialto Cinema, the Laguna Foundation, and, of course, our local schools. Our successful neighbor, Chops Teen Club in Santa Rosa, has generously agreed to mentor us in our efforts. The Sebastopol Teen Club will provide safe, lightly facilitated activities that are hands-on, creative and fun, as well as college prep support, volunteer opportunities, job skills training and job opportunities at local businesses. Our City Council has already approved a free city bus to provide transportation around town. The Community Center leads the work group, will host the website, and provide the marketing and recruitment to the Teen Club. Your donations will help launch this unique Teen Club in 2019.

Another **collaboration project**, is our role in **disaster preparedness**. We are actively planning with the City of Sebastopol, other evacuation facilities, volunteer organizations and the Red Cross, to be better prepared in our response and clear in our role before the next disaster. During the firestorms of last year,



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the community center was able to house the Red Cross volunteers for two weeks. We collaborated with our City and County government, other non-profits, local businesses, community leaders, local volunteers and service clubs to make their stay as comfortable as possible. Your donations support our role as a disaster preparedness facility in our community.

Would you like to **donate your expertise**? Our Board of Directors is reaching out into our community to bring in advice and expertise on a variety of strategic work groups. If you get inspired by projects like the Sebastopol Teen Club or getting prepared for a disaster and want to help volunteer your specific skills, please get in touch. Our current work groups include: **Sebastopol Teen Club, Disaster Preparedness, Children's Classes and Camps, Instructor Outreach, Grants, Fundraising Events, Concerts, Hispanic Interest, Zero Waste, Donors and Donations, and Facility Improvement**. These groups are working on a specific set of short term and long-term goals that require a wide variety of background and expertise, --- perhaps yours? Work groups meet once or twice a month, working strategically.

*We thank our loyal donors for their generous and heartfelt contributions that create the unique legacy of traditions and vitality that we continue to enjoy at the Sebastopol Community Cultural Center. Donating to the community center is donating to the enrichment of our community. Thank you for your support. You, as donors keep these wheels turning!*

In gratitude,  
The Board and Staff of the Sebastopol Community Cultural Center