



# SONOMA COMMUNITY CENTER

*Enriching the lives of the people of Sonoma Valley*



## **Our start:**

The home of the Sonoma Community Center (SCC) is the old Sonoma Grammar School, built in 1915 and now designated as a National Historic Landmark.

In 1952, when the building was deemed unsuitable for public education due to seismic concerns, a progressive local physician, Dr. Carroll Andrews, proposed that it become a center for music, arts, and recreation.

At an auction held February 20, 1952, Dr. Andrews and the Sonoma School District signed the agreement and the Sonoma Community Center was born. Since its inception, the SCC has incubated many of the Valley's non-profit organizations, providing them with the support needed to become self-sustaining.

Today, the Center is a non-profit 501(c)3 organization that produces free community events, plus art and cultural programs in movement, drawing, painting, pottery and ceramics, theater, music and more.

## **What we do:**

The Sonoma Community Center serves a broad cross-section of ages, ethnicities, and interests. It is estimated that SCC serves more than 30,000 people annually. Programs onsite include 100 classes per year in fine art, ceramics, music, movement, and theatre. The Center's gallery exhibits the work of some 25 local artists each year and hosts performances throughout the year. Four schools operate from SCC, including Crescent Montessori, Sonoma Valley Academy, Sonoma County Office of Education's Life Skills Program, and the California Martial Arts Institute. In addition to the programs provided onsite, SCC also produces the community's 4th of July parade, the City Party, the free Thanksgiving Dinner, the Día de Los Muertos Community Altar project, and the Trashion Fashion Show.

## **A single story:**

The Sonoma Community Center has evolved as the community has grown over the past six decades. As a result of this diversity of programs and a reach that extends beyond the campus of the SCC, the "one story" is actually the story of the community, which has, over the course of 64 years, been shaped by the fact that the SCC has become our cultural cornerstone.

There is the retiree and recent widow who was isolated by her grief until joining the ceramics studio program – the place she now goes to socialize, hone her craft, and meditate while throwing a pot.

There are the generations of Sonomans who spent their formative years attending school in this building.

There is the European couple visiting Sonoma over Thanksgiving who stumbled on the free Thanksgiving Dinner, an experience which became a highlight of their visit to the U.S.

There are the children (some now grown) who had their first-ever acting experience in Andrews Hall.

And there are the thousands of people who line the streets of the Plaza every year to watch the 4th of July parade, is ranked in the top ten for best Fourth of July celebrations in America by Travel and Leisure Magazine.

## **Our future:**

After completing a five-year capital improvement process, the Center board and staff are focusing on expanding its arts and cultural education programs.



**Impact100 Sonoma  
awarded an Impact  
Finalist Grant of**

**\$13,375 to Sonoma Community Center  
(2012).**