THE GROUND BENEATH US

La Tierra Bajo Nosotros

A Four-County Regional Art Collaboration
Exploring Land and Community

CALL FOR ART NOW OPEN ! SUBMIT HERE

ACCEPTING SUBMISSIONS OCTOBER 10 - NOVEMBER 10, 2026

EXHIBIT COMING
January 22 – March 1, 2027

ARTS COUNCIL SANTA CRUZ COUNTY

SVCREATES

ARTS COUNCIL for Monterey County

San Benito County Arts Council

IN THIS GUIDE

A quick guide for artists, supporters, media, and community partners.

• About the Collaboration + Exhibition Theme
• Call for Art + Exhibition Locations
• Submission Requirements + Artist Support
• Key Dates, Stay Connected + Contact

FOUR COUNCILS, ONE REGIONAL INVITATION

About the Collaboration

The Ground Beneath Us / La Tierra Bajo Nosotros **brings together four arts councils to connect artists, galleries, and communities across county lines. Together, we are building a shared platform for local stories, creative exchange, and a stronger regional arts ecosystem.**

OUR FOUR ARTS COUNCILS

Arts Council for Monterey County

Arts Council Santa Cruz County

San Benito County Arts Council

SVCREATES (Santa Clara County)

Reference: Press Release

THE ARTISTIC INVITATION

Exhibition Theme: Exploring Land and Community

Land is more than geography. It holds memory, labor, migration, belonging, and change.

Artists are invited to explore:

Agriculture and farm work
Water, drought, and stewardship
Migration, borders, and belonging
Memory, home, and cultural inheritance
Future visions for the shared region

Bring forward the stories, questions, and relationships that connect people to place.

OPEN CALL

CALL FOR ART now open!

Artists from the four counties are encouraged to apply.
All artistic mediums are welcome; submit up to four pieces per artist.

KEY DATES

Call opens — October 10, 2026
Office Hours – Four sessions (10/14, 10/21, 10/26, 11/3)
Call closes — November 10, 2026 at 11:59 pm
Artwork drop-off — January 11–16, 2027
Exhibition — January 22–March 1, 2027

Submission Form:

bit.ly/thegroundbeneathus

PREPARE WITH US

Artist Support & Upcoming Virtual Office Hours

Four virtual office hours are being offered during the application period to answer questions and support artists through the submission process.

OFFICE HOURS ON ZOOM

Wednesday, October 14, 2026 - Passed
3-4pm · Join Zoom Meeting

Wednesday, October 21, 2026
4-5pm · Join Zoom Meeting **Here**

Monday, October 26, 2026
7-8pm · Join Zoom Meeting **Here**

Tuesday, November 3, 2026
12-1pm · Join Zoom Meeting **Here**

Questions?
Email quadcountypartners@gmail.com

BEFORE YOU SUBMIT

Call for Art - To Know!

Open to emerging and established artists living or working in Monterey, Santa Cruz, San Benito, and Santa Clara Counties

Special encouragement for artists connected to Salinas, Watsonville, Hollister, and Gilroy

Submit up to four artworks for consideration
All visual art mediums are welcome
Prepare artwork titles, dimensions, medium information, and artwork images

Artwork must be ready for display or installation if selected
Artists are responsible for delivering accepted work between January 11–16, 2027

Selected artists and exhibition locations will be announced in December 2026

WHERE TO VISIT

Exhibition Locations & Reception Dates

EXHIBITION DATES
January 22–March 1, 2027
Hours vary per Gallery

GILROY
1202 Contemporary
7445 Monterey Rd
Reception Fri January 22, 2027

WATSONVILLE
Watsonville Center for the Arts
375 Main St
Reception Sat January 30, 2027

SALINAS
ArtWorks @ Salinas Studios & Gallery
262 Main St
Reception Fri February 5, 2027

HOLLISTER
Art Depot
35 5th St, Suite D
Reception Fri February 12, 2027

KEEP THE COLLABORATION MOVING

Next Steps, Stay Connected & Contact

KEY DATES

October 2, 2026
Public announcement

October 10–November 10, 2026
Call for Art

January 22–March 1, 2027
Exhibition :
The Ground Beneath Us / La Tierra Bajo Nosotros

STAY CONNECTED

Follow the four arts councils on social media and visit their websites:

Arts Council for Monterey County
arts4mc.org IG

Arts Council Santa Cruz County
artscouncilsc.org IG

San Benito County Arts Council
sanbenitoarts.org IG

SVCREATES
svcreates.org IG

CONTACT

Media inquiries
quadcountypartners@gmail.com
Subject: “Media Inquiry”

Partnership or collaboration inquiries from collectives, organizations, and regional partners
quadcountypartners@gmail.com
Subject: “Partnership Inquiry”

Regional partners: Watsonville Film Festival · 1202 Contemporary (Gallery Partner)

Additional partnership details are developing. We invite you to be part of this regional collaboration-send us an email!