



Advisory Body: **Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County**

Meeting Time: **Second Wednesday of the Month**, conference room, Office of Communications and Media, **10 Douglas Drive, Suite 210, Martinez**

Chair: **Commissioner Teresa Snook O'Riva**

Staff person: **Roger Renn, Managing Director**

Reporting Period: **January 1, 2017 – December 31, 2017**

## I. Activity

Continued increased funding from the County and the California Arts Council in 2017 has allowed the Arts and Culture Commission (AC5) to advance the arts and culture in Contra Costa County. AC5 revamped ABOUTFACE, a program utilizing the Veterans Initiative in the Arts grant, continued to increase high school participation in the Poetry Out Loud Competition, drew in county partners to co-create Art Passages exhibits, and expanded the Arts Recognition Awards and program to reach a broader Contra Costa Arts community.

The Commission obtained a quorum for all but two meetings called during the year, filled every Commission seat in all five districts (one At-Large seat is currently vacant), participated in many seminars and conferences and increased work hours for the Managing Director.

## II. Accomplishments

With county funding of \$14,000, and \$29,030 grant funding from the State\*, the Commission was able to accomplish its mission of *“advancing the arts in a way that promotes communication, education, appreciation and collaboration throughout Contra Costa County so that we may grow creatively as a community that preserves and celebrates our diverse cultural expression.”*

### **ABOUTFACE: Building Self-understanding through Self-portraits:**



AC5 has been awarded a Veterans Initiative in the Arts grant for a third year. Working with our Veterans Services Office, AC5 was able to engage veterans in painting self-portraits during the months of March and April, 2017. The workshops offered veterans an opportunity to explore portrait painting as a way of self-expression. By bringing the workshops to locations around the county we were able to increase attendance. ABOUTFACE was well received and is considered an exemplary program by the California Arts Council.

\* These figures represent amounts for the County's fiscal year 2016-17, State grant cycles dates differ.



**Poetry Out Loud** has been a well-received program in the Contra Costa high schools for the past ten years. Our Poetry Out Loud (POL) program coordinator, Robin Moore, not only started the program, but continues to champion the POL program as Coordinator. Her dedication has expanded the program to 18 schools; our largest participation of schools to date (up four schools from last year).



Kiara Chatman, a senior at Deer Valley High in Antioch, took first place in the Contra Costa County "Poetry Out Loud" competition for the second year in a row.

The event was held in the Las Lomas High School Theatre in Walnut Creek on February 11th. The Runner-up position went to senior Camila Morales-Jimenez from El Cerrito High in El Cerrito, and Third Place to sophomore Wesley Little from Monte Vista High in Danville.

**Art Passages** took a new approach this year to not only partner with the art community but to also partner with County committees and departments. Building off the success of the 2016 Cesar Chavez Commemorative Celebration, AC5 worked with the Employment and Human Services Department Community Services Bureau to celebrate Head Start Awareness Month; again partnered with the Cesar Chavez Celebration; the 2017 Veterans Day Celebration; and has begun to participate in the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Ceremony.



AC5 again partnered with the Art of Health and Healing to support their Art N' the Lobby program. And Stress Reduction through the Arts classes.



*Hanging On A Thread:* Fiber Art from NIAD Art Center was a well-received exhibit that was shown in August & September. Working with more than 40 adult artists with disabilities, NIAD Art Center has a very active fiber department. For more than 30 years, NIAD Art Center has assisted artists with developmental or physical disabilities in creating art, fostering creative expression, independence, dignity and community integration.



## Arts Recognition Awards

The commissioners worked hard to coordinate the nomination process, find outside judges, and present awards to artists who have advanced the appreciation of

arts and culture in Contra Costa County. Celebrating our 20<sup>th</sup> year, AC5 recognized those who have made a significant artistic or philanthropic contribution to Contra Costa's Arts and Culture. Honorees were: Richard and Natica Angilly, Creators of Poetic Dance Theater, from Richmond; Jack Catton, Board member for Diablo Ballet, from Walnut Creek; Clarinet Fusion, from Pleasant Hill; Sharon Redman, Founder of Vagabond Players, from Brentwood; and Dr. Alan Siegel, Founder of the Art of Health and Healing Initiative, from Martinez & San Pablo.

Two special awards were presented: *Distinguished Service and Leadership* to Robin Moore, from of Pleasant Hill, for her Distinguished Service and Leadership to the County's Poetry Out Loud Program for high school students, and an award for *Outstanding Contribution to the Arts* to the Diablo Regional Arts Association for their Art Access program and for providing grants to many of the performing arts organizations throughout Contra Costa County who perform at the Leshner Center for the Arts.

## III. Attendance/Representation

Name	%	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEPT	OCT	NOV	DEC
District 1													
Silvia Ledezma	100%	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	
District 2													
Marija Bleier	83%			✓		✓	✓	ABSENT		✓		✓	
District 3													
P.J. Shelton	25%	✓	✓	ABSENT		ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT		ABSENT		ABSENT	
District 4													
Elizabeth Wood	88%	✓	✓	✓		✓	ABSENT	✓		✓		✓	
District 5													
Tess O'Riva	100%	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	
At Large													
Y'Anad Burrell	62%	✓	ABSENT	✓		✓	✓	✓		ABSENT		ABSENT	
Geoffrey Meredith		✓	ABSENT	✓									
LaMar Anderson	100%											✓	
Alternate													
Cindy McCann	14%	✓	ABSENT	ABSENT		ABSENT	ABSENT	ABSENT		ABSENT			

AC5 held eight meetings in 2017. Meetings were canceled twice due to a lack of a quorum. Three Commissioners had a 100% attendance record. Due to employment commitments one Commissioner only attended two Commission meeting. This Commissioner was asked to resign.

The AC5 Commission represents all the art disciplines, except music. Commission seats were filled by qualified citizens applying from all over the county. AC5 meets monthly. Meetings had a quorum per the Brown Act and the Better Government Ordinance and met eleven times during the course of 2016.

## **I. Training/Certification**

Commissioners and staff participated in many seminars and conferences that included administrative training and professional development during the past year. Four Commissioners and the Managing Director attended the American for the Arts 2017 Annual Convention held in San Francisco. Participation led to more professional practices regarding pressing issues of equity, accessibility, and community building.

Mr. Renn, Managing Director was asked to participate in a peer-review panel for the California Arts Council. Serving on the State-Local Partnership grant review panel was a powerful learning experience that provided support to the arts and culture communities throughout the state.

As Managing Director, Mr. Renn also completed online training and successfully passed the examination of the Sexual Harassment Awareness course in compliance with Federal Anti-Discrimination Laws. Other training included: Orientation to the New DataArts Platform - Webinar – 2017, 2017, Philanthropy Summit - Unleashing a Culture of Philanthropy in your Nonprofit, Grant Research, Writing and Administration Seminar and an Informational Webinar: Applying for a California Arts Council Grant.

New Commissioners received an orientation which included viewing *Brown Act and Better Government Ordinance, What You Need to Know* presentation and viewing of the *Ethics Orientation for County Officials* presentation. All Commissioners update their Brown Act Training annually.

## **II. Proposed Work Plan / Objectives for 2018**

Our California Arts Council State-Local Partnership Grant application received a score of five out of 6, meeting all of the review criteria in a significant manner. AC5 sees a robust engagement with Arts and Culture providers throughout the county in 2018. As stated in our State-Local Partnership grant application, AC5 hopes to:

- Serve as a resource to local cultural organizations by partnering with them to offer Arts Cafés.
- Continue our support of Veterans by offering six ABOUT FACE painting workshops in the spring.
- Foster diversity of artistic communities and ensure equity by expanding Public Arts programs. Art Passages continues to exhibit art works in a professional manner.
- Recognize our entire geography, embracing members of all cultural backgrounds by honoring individual artists and organizations at a special Arts Recognition Awards celebration in the fall of 2018.

The Arts and Culture Commission deeply respects and appreciates the County's desire to promote arts education, celebrate the artists in our midst, and build our community through the arts. AC5 Commissioners look forward to serving our community in 2018.