

*The Board of Supervisors of
Contra Costa County, California*

In the matter of:

Resolution No. 2019/614

Honoring Michelle Seville, Retiring Richmond Arts & Culture Manager and Devoted Arts Advocate

WHEREAS, Michele Seville has lived in West Contra Costa County for 27 years, and has created a legacy of arts support throughout the area; and

WHEREAS, Michele Seville was one of the original park rangers at the Rosie the Riveter National Historical Park when it was first established in late 2000, where she recorded the oral histories of many “Rosies” from around the country; and

WHEREAS, Michele Seville volunteered in 1998 to serve as project manager for the Richmond Annex Mural commissioned by the Richmond Annex Neighborhood Council, thereby elevating her to the attention of then Richmond Arts & Culture Manager Virginia Rigney and securing herself a position on the Richmond Arts & Culture Commission where she served for six years; and

WHEREAS, Michele Seville was a founding co-coordinator of Point Richmond Music, which she continues to volunteer with 18 years later; and

WHEREAS, Michele Seville was part of the design team that helped design the West County Reentry Success Center, serving individuals and families impacted by incarceration in one welcoming hub in Richmond; and

WHEREAS, Michele Seville has supported and collaborated with numerous independent organizations and agencies working to make Richmond a thriving and welcoming—and art-filled—city for all, including Richmond Main Street Initiative, Richmond, CA/Regla, Cuba Friendship Committee, Richmond Museum of History, Arts & Culture Commission of Contra Costa County, arts commissions in neighboring cities, Water Emergency Transportation Authority, and California Poets in the Schools; and

WHEREAS, as the Richmond Arts & Culture Manager, Michele Seville has been a tireless advocate for public art and for the arts in general; and

WHEREAS, Michele Seville has led city support for Richmond’s primary nonprofit arts organizations, including NIAD (Nurturing Independence Through Artistic Development), RAC (Richmond Art Center), EBCPA (East Bay Center for the Performing Arts), and the Richmond, CA/Regla, Cuba Friendship Committee’s unique collection of prints by Cuban artist Antonio Canet Hernández; and

WHEREAS, as the Richmond Arts & Culture Manager, Michele Seville served the city by supporting and collaborating with numerous organizations and events, such as “Chalk It Up for the Birds,” culminating in the designation of the osprey as Richmond’s official city bird; “Blossoms and Thorns,” a photography exhibition focusing on the internment of Japanese-American residents of West County during WWII; finding an art conservationist for the Richmond Museum of History to restore the recently discovered Arnautoff mural; Richmond Greenway development, supporting activities, visioning, and grant proposals; the Richmond Writes! Poetry Contest for youth in schools; and building and maintaining the most comprehensive arts information notification network in West Contra Costa County, earning herself the title of “Queen of Connections” awarded by the East Bay Express in August 2018; and

WHEREAS, Michele Seville counts as her most important work both the passage of

the Percent for Art in Private Development ordinance and the ongoing Neighborhood Public Art Program, which was initially funded by a California Arts Council grant when Virginia Rigney was the Richmond Arts & Culture Manager; after a period of dormancy, Michele Seville revived the program with city funding, providing opportunities for youth to work with neighborhoods to create public art programs with small grants.

WHEREAS, Michelle Seville is retiring as the city of Richmond's Arts & Culture Manager after 12 years of dedicated, productive, creative service.

NOW THEREFORE , Be It Resolved that the Board of Supervisors of Contra Costa County does hereby honor Michelle Seville for her amazing contributions to the arts in Richmond, thank her for her inspirational community service, and wish her well in all future endeavors.

JOHN GIOIA

Chair, District I Supervisor

CANDACE ANDERSEN

District II Supervisor

DIANE BURGIS

District III Supervisor

KAREN MITCHOFF

District IV Supervisor

FEDERAL D. GLOVER

District V Supervisor

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of an action taken and entered on the minutes of the Board of Supervisors on the date shown.

ATTESTED: October 22, 2019

David J. Twa,

By: _____, Deputy