

**BY-LAWS OF THE  
ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION  
OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY**  
RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS December, 2020

**1. STATEMENT OF PURPOSE**

The function of the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County (Commission) is to advise the Board of Supervisors on matters and issues relevant to arts and culture; to advance the arts in a way that promotes communication, education, appreciation and collaboration throughout Contra Costa County; to preserve, celebrate and share the arts and culture of the many diverse ethnic groups who live in Contra Costa County; to create partnerships with business and government; to increase communication and understanding between all citizens through art; and to create District Alliances in each Supervisorial District. Most importantly, the Commission will promote arts and culture as a vital element in the quality of life for all of the citizens of Contra Costa County.

**2. DUTIES OF COMMISSIONERS**

Each Commissioner is expected to:

- a. Support the functions of the Commission.
- b. Give all meetings and other Commission activities a priority on his/her calendar.
- c. Serve on and chair Commission committees and events.
- d. Keep current with all facts and information upon which the Commission must base its collective opinions and decisions.
- e. Participate in strategic planning and implementation of arts programming.
- f. Be an ambassador and proponent of the arts and the Commission in Contra Costa County and engage people from all cultural and ethnic groups in the arts and in the work of the Commission.

**3. LOCATION OF MEETINGS**

Regularly scheduled Commission meetings will be held at the location designated by a majority of the Commission, and such location shall be accessible to the public.

**4. MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMISSION**

The Commission will have nine members and one alternate. Each Supervisor will appoint one member to represent his or her district. Four members will serve at-large and will be recommended by the Commission for appointment by the Board of Supervisors, as will the one alternate. The alternate may sit and vote for any absent member or vacant seat.

The Commission will also include two non-voting Youth Advisor members. Each Youth Advisor will be a high school or college student. Each Youth Advisor will be interviewed and recommended by the Commission for appointment by the Board of Supervisors for a one-year term.

Each Youth Advisor will perform a Commission-approved service project during their respective term. The Youth Advisers will be expected to attend all Commission meetings and other Commission activities as needed.

## **5. TERMS OF COMMISSIONERS**

Staggered terms are four years in length, ending June 30. Upon expiration of their term, Commissioners may continue to serve until their reappointment has been approved, or a successor is appointed. There are no term limits.

## **6. RESIGNATION AND/OR REMOVAL OF COMMISSIONERS**

Resignations from District seats shall be given in writing to the appointing District Supervisor. Resignations from at-large seats shall be given in writing to the Executive Director or the Chair. Resignation will be effective upon receipt of the written letter, unless a later effective date is specified in the resignation.

Regular attendance is essential for the Commission to conduct regular business, accomplish annual goals as approved by the Board of Supervisors, and meet funding source program requirements. Any Commissioner who is absent from three (3) regular meetings in a 12-month period, may be asked to resign, unless good cause is shown and approved by the Commission (e.g., work assignment, accident, illness or death of a family member, vacation, or personal illness).

## **7. OFFICERS**

The officers are Chair, Vice-Chair, and Senior Commissioner.

## **8. ELECTION OF OFFICERS**

A three-member nomination committee, appointed by the Chair, will develop a slate of officers to be presented and elected by the Commission at the June meeting. If an office becomes vacant at any time, the Commission will elect a new officer at the first regularly scheduled meeting following the effective date of the vacancy.

## **9. TERMS OF OFFICE**

Each officer serves a term of one year, beginning in July and ending the following June. An officer may not serve more than two consecutive terms, unless 80% of the Commissioners approve the waiving of this bylaw provision.

## 10. DUTIES OF OFFICERS

### **Chairperson**

1. The Chair calls and presides over meetings of the Commission.
2. The Chair and the Executive Director, with input from the Commissioners, prepare the meeting agenda.
3. The Chair may delegate his/her duties to the Vice-Chair.
4. The Chair ensures that there is full participation of the Commissioners present during a duly held meeting.

### **Vice-Chair**

1. The Vice-Chair assumes the duties of the Chair in the Chair's absence.
2. The Vice-Chair assumes the duties of the Chair for the remainder of the term of that office if the Chair is unable to continue.

### **Senior Commissioner**

1. The Commissioner with the most service time on the Commission, excluding the Chair and Vice-Chair, is the Senior Commissioner.
2. In the absence of the Chair and Vice-Chair, the Senior Commissioner will assume the duties of the Chair until either the Chair or Vice-Chair returns, or a new Chair or Vice-Chair is appointed.

## 11. THE STANDING COMMITTEES

The Commission may create committees composed solely of members of the Commission, which can be standing committees, task forces, or ad hoc committees, as needed.

Standing committees should meet at least quarterly or more frequently as needed. All actions approved by a standing committee will be referred to the Commission for final approval. Former Commissioners, the general public, and community members may, and are encouraged to, attend meetings of a standing committee, task force, or ad hoc committee, but may not be members of any committee.

1. **Communications Committee** – It is recommended that three Commissioners serve on the Communications Committee.

The Communications Committee will develop plans to increase public visibility of both the Commission and the arts in Contra Costa County. Functions include public relations, marketing and media relations.

2. **Public Arts Committee** – It is recommended that three Commissioners serve on the Public Arts Committee.

The Public Arts Committee will oversee the Arts Passages Program and other public art projects as directed by the Commission.

3. **Executive Committee**

The Executive Committee is comprised of the Commission Chair, Vice-Chair, and Senior Commissioner. The Executive Committee will review and make recommendations concerning Commission staff, personnel matters, finance and budget, and Commission governance issues. The Executive Committee shall meet at least once every six months with the Executive Director to establish priorities and set agendas for the regular meetings of the Commission.

4. **Arts Recognition Awards Committee** – It is recommended that two Commissioners serve on the Arts Recognition Awards Committee.

The Arts Recognition Awards Committee shall oversee the Annual Arts Recognition Program, including, but not limited to, establishing a project plan, reviewing the nomination forms for completeness, selecting judges, managing the judging process, selecting the artist to create the awards, and the coordination and preparation of the celebration honoring the recipients.

## **12. CONDUCT OF MEETINGS**

All meetings of the Commission and its committees shall be held in accordance with The Ralph M Brown Act and the County's Better Government Ordinance.

## **13. QUORUM**

A majority of the total number of authorized seats on the Commission or on a committee must be present to constitute a quorum for meetings. If all authorized seats are not filled, this does not change the quorum requirement. With nine authorized seats, a quorum of the Commission is five Commissioners. The alternate may sit for any absent member or vacant seat and count toward a quorum. No business shall be conducted without a quorum.

## **14. AMENDING THE BY-LAWS**

Any proposed changes to these bylaws will be referred to the Executive Committee for review and recommendation to the Commission. The proposed changes to these bylaws shall be presented in writing at the next regularly scheduled meeting of the

Commission and may be recommended to the Board of Supervisors by a two-thirds vote of the Commission members present. The proposed changes to these bylaws shall be effective upon approval by the Board of Supervisors.

Adopted: 5/8/96

Amended: 8/14/96, 9/23/02, 10/09/02, 02/08/06, 10/02/07, 04/23/13, 02/03/15,  
4/10/18, 9/8/20, 12/2/20