



Agenda

MEASURE X COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

July 28, 2021

5:00 P.M.

VIRTUAL MEETING

The Public may observe and participate in
the Virtual Zoom Meeting by using this link:

<https://ccccounty-us.zoom.us/j/81176769191>

Meeting ID: 811 7676 9191

Or by dialing (888) 278-0254

Conference Code: 468751

Mariana Moore, Chair
BK Williams, Vice Chair

Agenda Items:

Items may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and
preference of the Committee

1. Roll Call
2. Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two minutes).
3. RECEIVE the Record of Action for the July 21, 2021, Measure X Community Advisory Board meeting (Mariana Moore, Chair)
4. RECEIVE presentations and PARTICIPATE in panel discussions on the topics of libraries, arts & culture, and agriculture (Mariana Moore, Chair)
5. REVIEW and DISCUSS the plan for presenters of focused presentations at upcoming MXCAB meetings (Mariana Moore, Chair)
6. REVIEW and DISCUSS process for finalizing priorities and recommendations to submit to the Board of Supervisors (Mariana Moore, Chair)
7. The next meeting is currently scheduled for August 4, 2021.
8. Adjourn

The Measure X Community Advisory Board will provide reasonable accommodations for persons with disabilities planning to attend Measure X meetings. Contact the staff person listed below at least 72 hours before the meeting.

Any disclosable public records related to an open session item on a regular meeting agenda and distributed by the County to a majority of members of the Measure X Community Advisory Board less than 96 hours prior to that meeting are available for public inspection at 1025 Escobar St., 4th Floor, Martinez, during normal business hours.

Public comment may be submitted via electronic mail on agenda items at least one full work day prior to the published meeting time.

*Live Transcription (Automated Closed Captioning) is available in English via Zoom - Click the "**Live Transcript**" button from the in-meeting Zoom toolbar and **select one** of the options from the pop-up menu.*

*Live simultaneous Spanish interpretation is available for Measure X Community Advisory Board meetings by joining the meeting via the Zoom application. Click on the "**Interpretation Globe**" at the bottom of the screen and choose the language channel Spanish. You may wish to "Mute Original Audio" so that you only hear the utterances on the channel that you select.*

Measure X Community Advisory Board meeting agendas and videos are available in Spanish at: http://64.166.146.245/agenda_publish.cfm?id=&mt=ALL

For Additional Information Contact:

Lisa Driscoll, Committee Staff
Phone (925) 655-2047
lisa.driscoll@cao.cccounty.us



Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

Subcommittee Report

MEASURE X COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Date: 07/28/2021
Subject: Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda
Submitted For: MEASURE X Com Advisory Board,
Department: County Administrator
Referral No.: 2/2/21 D.4
Referral Name: Measure X Community Advisory Committee
Presenter: Mariana Moore **Contact:**

Referral History:

Public comment on any item under the jurisdiction of the Committee and not on this agenda (speakers may be limited to two minutes).

Referral Update:

Receive public comments.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

Accept attached written public comments.

Attachments

Public Comments - Climate Equity
Public Comments - Climate
Public Comments - Environment 1
Public Comments - Environment 2
Public Comments - Transportation 1
Public Comments - Transportation 2
Public Comments - Transportation 3
Public Comments - Transportation 4
Public Comments - Transportation 5

Lisa Driscoll

From: Lindsay Judd <lindsayjudd@me.com>
Sent: Monday, July 19, 2021 4:08 PM
To: Lisa Driscoll
Subject: Support Measure X fund allocation to address climate change

Hi Lisa,

My name is Lindsay Judd and I am a resident of El Cerrito. I am writing to share my support for proceeds from the sales tax approved by the voters in November to support climate equity and resilience work. Climate change is here as demonstrated by recent wildfires, heat waves, drought and sea level rise. We must allocate resources to adapt to our changing environment. The Department of Conservation and Development manages several ongoing community planning initiatives that would benefit from annual investment from these proceeds.

Thank you,
Lindsay Judd

Lisa Driscoll

From: Wei-Tai Kwok <weitaikwok@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2021 12:41 AM
To: Lisa Driscoll
Subject: Support for Measure X Climate Equity and Resilience Investment

To: Measure X Advisory Board (July 28, 2021 Meeting)
Re: Support for Measure X Climate Equity and Resilience Investment
From: Wei-Tai Kwok, Lafayette, CA

I write to urge Contra Costa County to allocate Measure X funding to protect vulnerable populations most at risk from the consequences of climate disruption. Poor and disadvantaged communities disproportionately have and will continue to suffer greater impacts of pollution from living down-wind from refineries and greater risks from living in low-lying flood-prone regions at risk from sea level rise. Such communities lack the resources and resilience to stand up to heat waves, drought and Public Safety Power Shutoffs.

In September 2020, the County Board of Supervisors declared a Climate Emergency Resolution to acknowledge that URGENT action must be taken NOW to prepare our citizens for the road ahead, and in particular to effect a Just Transition away from fossil fuels to a clean economy. The Climate Emergency Resolution must not be an empty piece of paper but rather a seriously led and resourced effort to mitigate the disruption and protect our most vulnerable communities.

Please vote to approve a \$500,000/year investment in supporting climate equity and resilience goals, to be managed through the Department of Conservation and Development.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Wei-Tai Kwok
Lafayette, CA 94549
[linkedin.com/in/weitaikwok/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/weitaikwok/)
City of Lafayette 2015 Green Award Honoree
Past President, Sustainable Lafayette
Co-Founder, Climate Reality Bay Area Chapter

July 20, 2021

Measure X Advisory Board
c/o Lisa Driscoll
County Finance Director

Re: Allocation of Measure X revenues

Dear Board Members,

Not a week goes by that we are not confronted by news of another neighborhood, city or entire region hit hard by climate-related events: wildfires, flooding, rising tides, extreme heat. As you well know, those effects fall most heavily on lower-income communities.

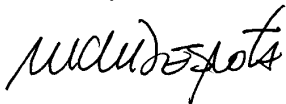
For that reason, I urge the Board to recommend the allocation of Measure X revenue to actions that will help communities adapt to climate impacts, and that will mitigate their ultimate cause by supporting clean energy programs and electric vehicle infrastructure.

Climate impacts harm individuals and communities in less direct ways than fires or rising sea levels. Fossil fuel-related industries will gradually shut down or transform their production. Job losses will surge and cities' tax revenues will shrink. Measure X funds, therefore, I ask that Measure X funds also be allocated to programs that support economic transitions for those most affected.

There is no shortage of mature programs and new initiatives to which this support can be directed. I can think of no better way to apply the millions of dollars that taxpayers will pay in the coming years.

Sincerely,

Nick Despota

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "nick despota". The signature is written in a cursive, lowercase style.

Contra Costa County Sustainability Commission
Citizens Climate Lobby

Richmond, California



July 23, 2021

Contra Costa County Measure X Community Advisory Board
via email

Dear Community Advisory Board Members,

On behalf of Marin Clean Energy (MCE), I write in support of the request of the Department of Conservation and Development (DCD) for dedicated funding to support community planning initiatives that support the County's climate equity and resilience goals. MCE is proud to support Contra Costa County as the Community Choice Aggregator (CCA) providing clean power to nearly 90% of the County's residents and businesses.

The proposed investments will provide the Department of Conservation and Development with the capacity needed to help ensure that the County and its residents are best positioned to adapt to our swiftly-changing climate and mitigate future climate change impacts. The additional staff capacity described in the DCD proposal will also help the County take advantage of numerous regional, state, and federal funding opportunities available to support the projects detailed in the proposal. Importantly, the proposed investment will lead to the development of projects that will create good jobs for County residents in building resilient infrastructure, retrofitting homes to be more energy efficient and use more clean energy, and managing the County's agricultural and forested lands.

The investments this additional funding would enable are specifically designed to focus on the individuals and communities who are most impacted by climate change, including low- and moderate-income homeowners, workers currently employed in fossil fuel sectors, and communities closest to the County's shoreline and waterways. In particular, MCE is pleased to support the proposal to increase the County's capacity to develop community facing clean energy projects and programs, including community solar, community resilience centers, and increased deployment of electric vehicles. MCE looks forward to deepening our existing partnerships with Contra Costa County to deliver the benefits of these important community and clean energy projects.

For the reasons stated above, MCE is pleased to support the Department of Conservation and Development's request for Measure X funding to support climate equity and resilience initiatives.

Sincerely,

Dawn Weisz
CEO

Lisa Driscoll

From: Kevin Donovan <kddonovan@aol.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 11:05 AM
To: Lisa Driscoll
Subject: Measure X - Support for Accessible Transportation Strategic Plan

Lisa: Through Measure X I urge you to include funding for the implementation of the Accessible Transportation Strategic Plan, including the creation of a CTSA type of organization.

Thanks you,

Kevin Donovan
ACOA of Contra Costa County

Lisa Driscoll

From: james.r.donnelly@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 2:30 PM
To: MMoore@richmondca.org
Cc: Lisa Driscoll
Subject: Measure X Funding & Accessible transportation

Chairwoman Moore,

I am writing you in support of allocating a portion of the Measure X revenues toward funding the implementation of the Accessible Transportation Strategic Plan, including the creation of a CTSA type of organization." Over the past two decades monies have been included in Contra Costa and Regional Transportation initiatives for funding and implementation of such a study. However, for whatever reasons this has never been implemented while out assessable transportation options have not kept up with the need.

Over the past 5 years I have become very involved with senior issues in Contra Costa (see list below) and have seen, firsthand, the challenges faced by our non-driving seniors. As a volunteer driver for Mobility Matters, I interact with non-driving seniors and veterans multiple times a week where I observe how limited their access is to accessible transportation. From my time on the County Connection Advisory Committee, I have become very aware of the challenges seniors face who depend on paratransit to get to doctor and other appointments, especially if they travel from one area of the county to another.

Please show support for improving accessible transportation in Contra Costa County by allocating sufficient funds from Measure X revenues to implement key provisions from the Accessible transportation Strategic Plan.

Regards,

Jim Donnelly

Transportation Relate Volunteer Activities

Contra Costa Advisory Commission on Aging (President)
Danville Senior Advisory Commissioner
Senior Mobility Action Commission (Member)
County Connection Advisory Committee (former Member and Committee Chair)
Mobility Matters (Volunteer Driver)

Jim Donnelly, QEP Emeritus
373 Century Circle, Danville, CA 94526
(925) 570-9289
James.r.donnelly@comcast.net

"An injury to one is an injury to all."- Harry Bridges
"If you want to be happy, help someone."- Dalai Lama



This email has been checked for viruses by Avast antivirus software.
www.avast.com

Lisa Driscoll

From: alan smith <alanbsmith@sbcglobal.net>
Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2021 8:21 AM
To: mmootr@richmomdcf.org
Cc: Lisa Driscoll
Subject: Measure X - Transportation Accessibility

Thank you for accepting my input. Bottom line we need more bus service.

By way of background, I became legally blind in 2005. While I had to retire, I continue to remain active in the community. To wit - county library commission since '97, BART Accessibility Task force since 2012 - currently a vice chair and member of the Braille and Talking Book Library User Advisory Council in Sacramento since 2014.

Long headways and long times to transfer to another bus at Concord BART can make it very difficult to get around. Example.

A while back I had a library event to attend at the state capitol. I took a bus to Concord BART and had to wait almost an hour to get the bus to Martinez Amtrak. That ride was over two hours. That is far too long.

Thus, funds should be provided so County Connection can have shorter headways and shorter waits to transfer.

Thank you for your consideration.

Alan Smith
Concord



CONTRA COSTA
transportation
authority

COMMISSIONERS

Teresa Gerringer,
Chair

Chris Kelley,
Vice Chair

Newell Arnerich

Tom Butt

Federal Glover

Loella Haskew

David Hudson

Karen Mitchoff

Sue Noack

Lamar Thorpe

Holland White

Timothy Haile,
Executive Director

July 21, 2021

Mariana Moore, Chair
Measure X Community Advisory Board
Contra Costa County Administrator's Office
1025 Escobar Street, 4th Floor
Martinez, Ca 94553

Subject: Measure X Priority Funding for Transforming Accessible Transportation in
Contra Costa County

Dear Chair Moore:

On July 28, 2021, Contra Costa County staff will make a presentation to the Measure X Community Advisory Board (MXCAB) requesting priority funds to begin implementation of the Contra Costa Accessible Transportation Strategic Plan (ATSP) recommendations, which was a result of eighteen months of community outreach, and collaborative multi-jurisdictional planning and program development. Accessible Transportation, in this context, refers to transportation services and programs for older adults, persons with disabilities and eligible veterans.

Accessible transportation services in Contra Costa – and across the state and nation – are often made up of a patchwork of providers that can be hard to navigate, lack coordination, and result in the needs of our most vulnerable community members not being met. With our population aging at a historic rate, it is imperative that we find new funding to jumpstart transformative changes to accessible transportation. The ATSP provides recommendations that, with implementation, will have an ongoing positive effect on the lives of older and disabled Contra Costa residents and their families and caregivers. These programs will go beyond the regulatory confines of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), beyond borders of existing transportation service areas, and include all clients from all programs being offered in Contra Costa County. The goal of the ATSP is to eliminate the accessible transportation service silos that have been created over the past decades and better connect our county.

The Contra Costa Transportation Authority (Authority), through the voter approved Measure J Transportation Sales Tax Expenditure Plan, funds accessible transportation programs at 6.15 percent of the total transportation sales tax (1/2 percent) over a twenty-five year measure that expires in 2034. This equates to roughly \$123 million (2004 dollars) over the life of the measure. However, these funds are not enough to meet the needs of this vulnerable, rapidly growing population. As the older population grows, more pressure will be put on the existing transportation system. New funding is needed to support implementation of the ATSP and

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Walnut Creek
CA 94597
PHONE: 925.256.4700
FAX: 925.256.4701
www.ccta.net

*Mariana Moore, Chair
Measure X Community Advisory Board
Contra Costa County
July 21, 2021
Page 2*

transform the accessible transportation services in Contra Costa County into a coordinated, more efficient system that serves the needs of the individuals that rely on it for mobility.

The Authority respectfully requests your support for priority Measure X funding for transformative accessible transportation services. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to Peter Engel, Director of Programs, via email at pengel@ccta.net or John Cunningham, Principal Planner, Contra Costa County Department of Conservation and Development, via email at john.cunningham@dcd.cccounty.us.

Sincerely,

Teresa Gerringer
Chair

Cc: Supervisor Diane Burgis, Chair, Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors
Monica Nino, Contra Costa County Administrator
Lisa Driscoll, Contra Costa County Finance Director
Timothy Haile, Executive Director, Authority

Lisa Driscoll

From: mauriciobaltrons@aol.com
Sent: Thursday, July 22, 2021 12:49 PM
To: Lisa Driscoll
Subject: More Housing Approved, No road improvements?

I don't understand how the County Supevisors approve more housing projects when the area is so saturated already? Any improvements on road safety in Discovery Bay, Brentwood, etc.

Thank you,



Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

Subcommittee Report

MEASURE X COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Date: 07/28/2021

Subject: Record of Action for July 21, 2021 Measure X Community Advisory Board Meeting

Submitted For: FINANCE COMMITTEE,

Department: County Administrator

Referral No.: N/A

Referral Name: Record of Action

Presenter: Lisa Driscoll, County Finance Director

Contact: Lisa Driscoll (925) 655-2047

Referral History:

County Ordinance requires that each County body keep a record of its meetings. Though the record need not be verbatim, it must accurately reflect the agenda and the discussions made in the meetings.

Referral Update:

Attached for the Board's information is the Record of Action for its July 21, 2021 meeting. Also attached are public comments that were received too late to be included in the July 21 meeting posting.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

Staff recommends MXCAB receive the Record of Action for the July 21, 2021 meeting.

Fiscal Impact (if any):

No fiscal impact.

Attachments

Record of Action MXCAB 7-21-21



Agenda

MEASURE X COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

July 21, 2021

9:00 A.M.

1025 Escobar St., Martinez

Mariana Moore, Chair
BK Williams, Vice Chair

Agenda Items:

Items may be taken out of order based on the business of the day and preference of the Committee

Present: Mariana Moore, Chair; BK Williams, Vice Chair; Edith Pastrano; Kathryn Chiverton; Jim Cervantes; Odessa LeFrancois; David Cruise; Dr. Michelle Hernandez; Sharon Quezada Jenkins; Ali Saidi; Kimberly Aceves-Iniquez; Ruth Fernandez; Debbie Toth; Sandra Wall; Susun Kim; Cathy Hanville; Pello Walker; Gigi Crowder; Melissa Stafford Jones; Diana Honig; Lindy Lavender; Steven Bliss

Absent: Michelle Stewart; Jerry Short; Sandro Trujillo; Geneveva Calloway; Peter Benson

Staff Lisa Driscoll, County Finance Director; Enid Mendoza, Senior Deputy County

Present: Administrator; Jill Ray, BOS District II; Melissa Klawuhn, Assistant Sheriff

1. Roll Call

Staff provided instruction for access to English live transcription (automated closed captioning), and live simultaneous Spanish and ASL interpretation, and then conducted roll call. There were approximately 88 participants.

2. Accept attached written public comments.

Public comments were received from Christopher Martinez, Javier Nunton, and Jo Bruno on topics not on the agenda.

3. Staff recommends MXCAB receive the Record of Action for the July 14, 2021 meeting.

The Record of Action was accepted as presented.

4. RECEIVE presentations on the topic of immigration and racial equity across system.

Mariana Moore introduced the topics for discussion. Presentations were provided and the following individuals shared their insight and experiences: Solomon Belette, Arielle Danzy, Karen Perkins, and Anh Ta from the Community Engagement and Planning effort for the Office of Racial Equity & Social Justice; Lanett Williams and Heliodoro Moreno from Stand Together Contra Costa; Ari Jones from Oasis Legal Services; Debra Ballinger from Contra Costa Immigrant Rights Alliance; Sangita Gautuam and Anupama Champagain Parajuli from Nepali Health Advocates; and resident speaker Rose Muñoz.

At the conclusion of the presentations, members of the MXCAB made comments and asked questions. At approximately 6:32 PM the MXCAB took an eight minute break. At the conclusion of the MXCAB member comments, members of the public were offered an opportunity to speak and public comments were heard from 18 individuals in three different languages.

5. Discuss/modify attached plan for presenters.

BK Williams introduced the topic for discussion and both BK Williams and Mariana Moore reviewed the current schedule of speakers. MXCAB members discussed options for future meetings. It was noted that the schedule included only two more meetings for presentations (July 21 and 28) and that the July 28 meeting covered a wide range of topics with many potential panelists. The pros and cons of splitting the panel into two nights was discussed. Jim Cervantes, District II Appointee, made a motion to break the meeting of July 28th into two meetings, which would defer discussion of development of draft priorities and finalizing the priorities by one week from August 4 and August 8 to August 11 and August 18. The motion was seconded by Odessa LeFrancois, District III Appointee. The MXCAB discussed the impacts of such a motion and several members offered to help to reschedule the panelists. There were no comments from members of the public. The item passed unanimously.

An updated schedule will be attached to the next agenda.

AYE: Chair Mariana Moore, Vice Chair BK Williams, Edith Pastrano, Kathryn Chiverton, Jim Cervantes, Odessa LeFrancois, David Cruise, Dr. Michelle Hernandez, Sharon Quezada Jenkins, Ali Saidi, Kimberly Aceves-Iniquez, Ruth Fernandez, Debbie Toth, Sandra Wall, Susun Kim, Pello Walker, Gigi Crowder, Melissa Stafford Jones

Passed

6. REVIEW and DISCUSS process for finalizing priorities and recommendations to submit to the Board of Supervisors (Mariana Moore, Chair)

Mariana Moore introduced the topic for discussion. A discussion took place regarding the process for continued tracking of issues and beginning to sort through priorities in order to make recommendations. BK Williams reminded the MXCAB of the spreadsheet that was prepared by Cathy Hanville for MXCAB use. An updated spreadsheet will be emailed out to MXCAB members and a pdf will be included in the agenda packet for the meeting of July 28. A brief discussion took place regarding the process for MXCAB to make decisions in developing the priority list and recommendations to submit to the Board of Supervisors. The discussion included how sub-group discussions could take place while maintaining transparency and public access to decision makers. After the MXCAB discussion, public comments were made by Elsa Stevens. Staff was asked to review options for sub-group discussions.

7. The next meeting is currently scheduled for July 28, 2021.

There was no change to the next standing date and time.

8. Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at approximately 9:15 PM.

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Public comment may be submitted via electronic mail on agenda items at least one full work day prior to the published meeting time.

For Additional Information Contact:

Lisa Driscoll, Committee Staff
Phone (925) 655-2047
lisa.driscoll@cao.cccounty.us



Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

Subcommittee Report

MEASURE X COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Date: 07/28/2021
Subject: Focussed Presentation and Discussion - Library, Arts & Culture, and Agriculture
Submitted For: MEASURE X Com Advisory Board,
Department: County Administrator
Referral No.: 2/2/21 D.4
Referral Name: Community Advisory Committee for Measure X
Presenter: Mariana Moore **Contact:** Lisa Driscoll (925) 655-2047

Referral History:

Plan for series of focussed presentations and discussion was established by the Measure X Community Advisory Board. Committee received presentations on May 12 regarding seniors, disabled people, and veterans, on May 19 community safety: fire protection, on May 26 early childhood, on June 9 youth and young adults, on June 16 healthcare, on June 23 mental health/ behavioral health & disabled residents, on July 7 community safety: Justice systems, on July 14 safety net, and on July 21 immigration and racial equity across systems.

Referral Update:

Attached are presentations regarding libraries, arts & culture, and agriculture.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

RECEIVE presentations on the topics of libraries, arts & culture, and agriculture:

- Alison McKee, County Librarian
- Antonio Medrano, CCC Library Commissioner
- Jenny Balisle and Ben Miyaji, Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa
- Silvia Ledezma, Vice Chair AC5, Arts-in-Corrections: County Jail Project
- Tony Tamayo, artist, advocate, Poetry Out Loud and ABOUTFACE Technical Assistant
- Naina Shastri, Founder/Artistic Director at Ushanjali School of Dance, San Ramon Social Justice Collective
- Donte Clark, Poetry Out Loud Coordinator
- Ruthie Dineen, East Bay Center for the Performing Arts
- Marva Reed, Art of the African Diaspora Curator

- Sheila McKinney, Local Arts and Cultural Organizations grantee RYSE, youth artist performance
- CieraJevae Gordon, Local Arts and Cultural Organizations grantee RYSE, youth artist performance
- Tara Malik, Local Arts and Cultural Organizations grantee RYSE, youth artist performance
- Dedan Ji JaJa, ABOUTFACE Veteran artist
- Keertana Srekkumar, youth artist, advocate, student, San Ramon Youth Art Committee President/Founder
- Matthew Slattengren, Agricultural Commissioner - Director of Weights and Measures
- Jose Arriaga, Assistant Agricultural Commissioner - Director of Weights and Measures

Additional materials (attached) were provided to supplement presentations:

- Contra Costa County Library
 - Measure X Proposal - Library Background
 - Strategic Plan 2019
 - Final Letter Packet
- Arts and Cultural Commission of Contra Costa
- East Bay Center for the Performing Arts
 - 2020 Annual Report
 - Video Link 1: East Bay Center for the Performing Arts During Covid 2020: <https://vimeo.com/572697488/6cc218415e>
 - Video Link 2: An Introduction to East Bay Center for the Performing Arts: <https://vimeo.com/578320321/9d1520011>

Attachments

1 - Contra Costa County Library

Library Measure X Proposal Background

Library Strategic Plan

Final Letter Packet

2 - Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa

Arts and Cultural Commission of Contra Costa - Supplemental Materials

3 - East Bay Center for the Performing Arts

East Bay Center for the Performing Arts 2020 Annual Report

4 - Agriculture - Weights and Measures

Public Comments - Art 1

Public Comments - Art 2

Public Comment - Library 1

Public Comment - Library 2

Public Comment - Library 3

Public Comment - Library 4

Public Comment - Library 5

Public Comment - Library 6

Public Comment - Library 7

Public Comment - Library 8

Public Comment - Library 9

Public Comment - Library 10

Public Comment - Library 11

Public Comment - Library 12

Public Comment - Library 13

Public Comment - Library 14

Public Comment - Library 15

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY

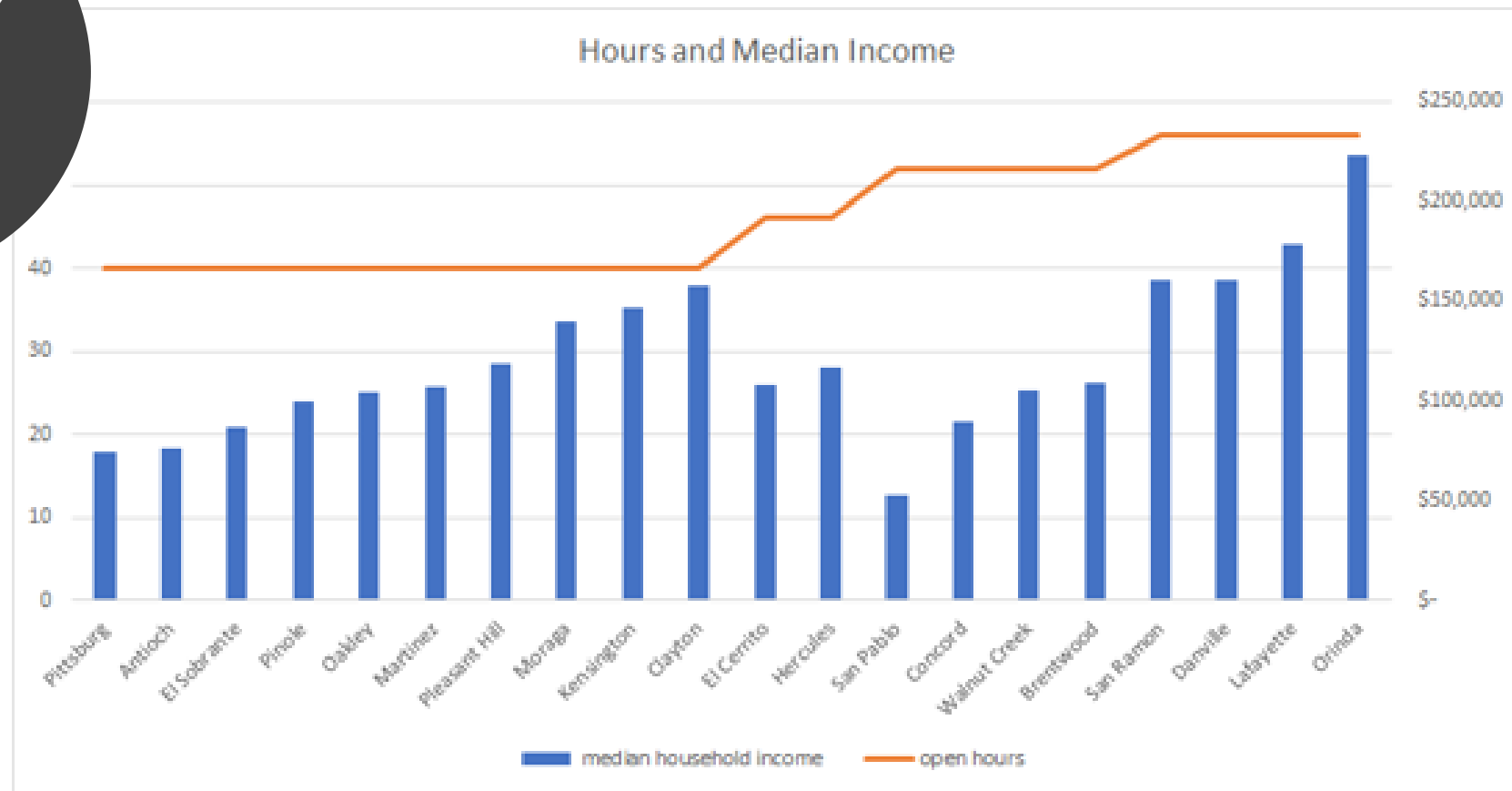
Alison McKee, County Librarian

Antonio Medrano, Library Commissioner, City of San Pablo

FUNDING COMPARISON WITH OTHER EAST BAY LIBRARIES

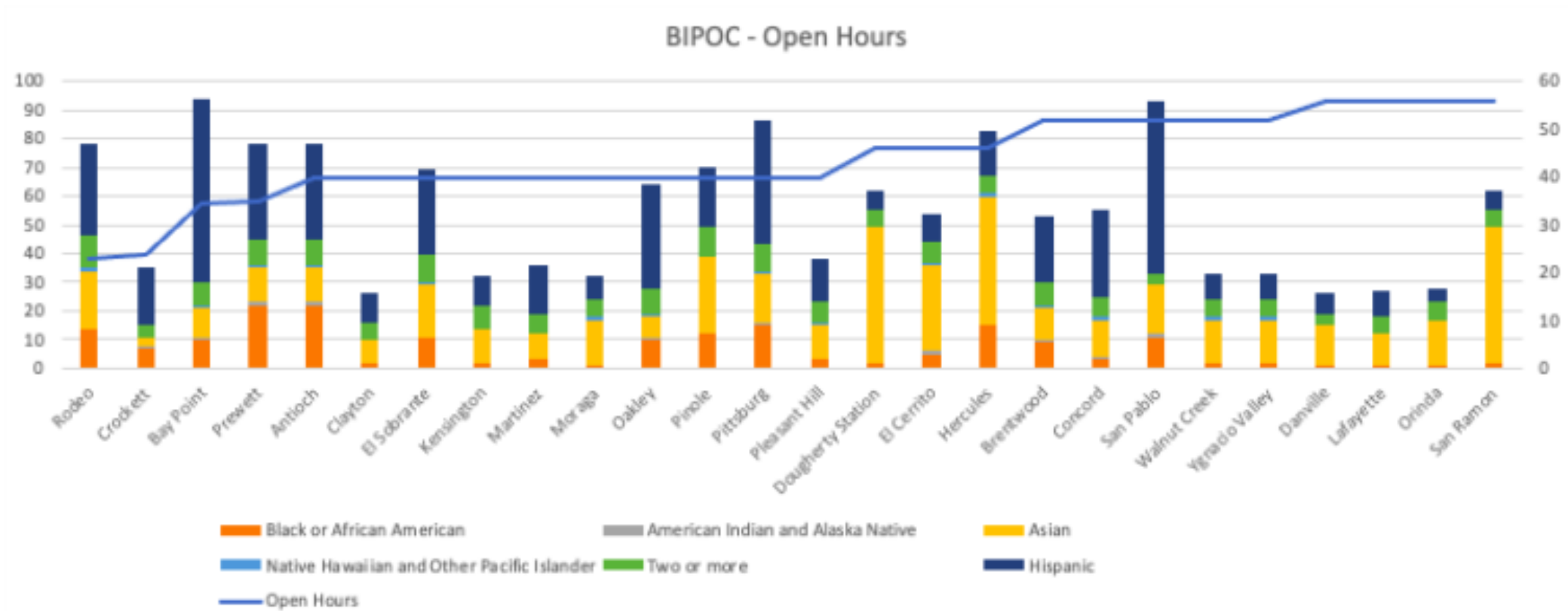
Library	Funding per Person	Population of Service Area	Number of Libraries	Library budget FY 19-20
Contra Costa	\$32.89	1,042,344	26	\$35,714,141
Richmond	\$47.68	111,217	3	\$5,903,333
Alameda Co.	\$49.54	613,679	10	\$35,234,732
Pleasanton	\$51.17	79,464	1	\$4,124,212
Alameda City	\$59.93	81,312	3	\$4,897,331
Livermore	\$ 63.16	91,861	3	\$ 5,903,294
Oakland	\$ 97.41	433,697	18	\$42,619,842
Berkeley	\$ 166.67	122,580	5	\$20,734,529

DISPARITY OF ACCESS



**DISPARITY
OF
ACCESS**





DISPARITY OF ACCESS FOR BIPOC RESIDENTS



PROPOSED SOLUTION

56 weekly hours at all full-service libraries funded by the County

\$22 million annually

FAILING FACILITIES

County-owned library facilities with deferred maintenance

Antioch, Kensington, Pinole, Rodeo, Ygnacio Valley

ADA improvements, electrical systems, fire safety, roofing, lighting, plumbing, HVAC

\$8.1 Million – One-time cost

IMPACT OF PROPOSED SOLUTIONS

Equal access to libraries regardless of wealth:
increase of 215 hours per week

More children ready for school: 20% increase in
storytimes and children's programming

Fewer children going hungry: additional open days
for Student Meals at the Library

More adults able to access basic literacy tutoring

Bridging the digital divide: increased access to
technology and services

Increased number of reliable cooling and warming
centers

Stronger partnerships for increased impact in
communities



MEASURE X PROPOSAL

JULY 28, 2021

"Once you learn to read, you will be
forever free." -Frederick Douglass

As presented by
Alison McKee,
County Librarian

CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY

The Library is an essential County service providing facilities, staff, collections, databases, and programs to meet the lifelong needs of all residents. However, the Library cannot do its work if it is not open. The Library is an essential link to early childhood education, safety-net programs, and overall wellness in our community. This document provides general background information about the Contra Costa County Library and highlights the ways in which Measure X funding will allow the Library to close some of the gaps identified in the 2020 Sales Tax Working Group's Needs Assessment for Contra Costa County.

The Library is requesting Measure X funding for all Contra Costa County Library branches to be open 56 hours per week and to complete long-overdue deferred maintenance in five County-owned library facilities. Measure X funding will significantly address the problem of access to library services and adequate facilities for residents in low-income, impacted communities. Furthermore, it will allow the Library to expand services to the residents in our communities who rely on it the most. Lastly, it will allow us to partner more often with service providers who share the library's vision of supporting county residents who are most vulnerable. This will increase both the Library's and our partners' abilities to more effectively benefit the largest number of people throughout Contra Costa County.



26 LIBRARIES

Contra Costa County Library consists of 26 libraries in 18 cities and five unincorporated areas throughout the county:

Antioch
Bay Point
Brentwood
Clayton
Concord
Crockett
Danville
Dougherty Station (San Ramon)
El Cerrito
El Sobrante
Hercules
Kensington
Lafayette

Martinez
Moraga
Oakley
Orinda
Pinole
Pittsburg
Pleasant Hill
Prewett (Antioch)
Rodeo
San Pablo
San Ramon
Walnut Creek
Ygnacio Valley (Walnut Creek)

Other locations and services include a library inside Juvenile Hall and the Orin Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility, and a robust adult literacy program, Project Second Chance, located in San Pablo, Hercules, Concord, Antioch and Brentwood.



LIBRARY USERS

More than 425,000 people have Contra Costa County Library cards, with the vast majority of them being Contra Costa County residents (anyone who is a CA resident may be a cardholder).

Community	Number of card holders	Population	% of residents with cards
Antioch	30,478	111,535	27%
Brentwood	21,592	63,800	34%
Clayton	5,784	12,192	47%
Concord	42,395	129,688	33%
Crockett	1,163	3,094	38%
Danville	24,796	44,650	56%
Discovery Bay	3,109	13,352	23%
El Cerrito	10,158	25,601	40%
El Sobrante	8,051	12,669	64%
Hercules	10,428	25,601	41%
Kensington	3,172	5,077	62%
Lafayette	16,613	26,521	63%
Martinez	16,143	38,290	42%
Moraga	8,308	17,692	47%
Oakley	10,825	42,129	26%
Orinda	10,925	19,806	55%
Pinole	6,347	19,318	33%
Pittsburg/Bay Point	26,066	95,076	27%
Pleasant Hill	14,001	34,903	40%
Richmond	12,223	110,146	11%
Rodeo	2,972	8,679	34%
San Pablo	21,376	31,124	69%
San Ramon	40,519	75,839	53%
Walnut Creek	44,874	69,825	64%
Total	392,318	1,036,607	38%

FUNDING

The Library has a dedicated fund of 1.5 percent of the 1 percent ad valorem property tax. The library does not receive any general fund monies from the County. The Library's budget for FY21-22 is \$36.1 million, less than 1 percent of the County's entire budget. In looking at other Bay Area counties with comparable funding mechanisms and governance, Contra Costa County is funded at the lowest level. It also has less funding per capita than the Richmond Public Library, the only other library system in Contra Costa County:

Library	Funding per Person	Population of Service Area	Number of Libraries	Library budget FY 19-20
Contra Costa	\$32.89	1,042,344	26	\$35,714,141
Richmond	\$47.68	111,217	3	\$5,903,333
Alameda	\$49.54	613,679	10	\$35,234,732
Solano	\$55.96	389,856	9	\$22,745,956
Napa	\$77.85	133,015	4	\$11,213,195
Marin	\$122.83	142,424	10	\$19,993,341

In terms of other libraries in the East Bay, many of which are familiar to and used by Contra Costa residents, Contra Costa also ranks the lowest in funding per capita:

Library	Funding per Person	Population of Service Area	Number of Libraries	Library budget FY 19-20
Contra Costa	\$32.89	1,042,344	26	\$35,714,141
Richmond	\$47.68	111,217	3	\$5,903,333
Alameda Co.	\$49.54	613,679	10	\$35,234,732
Pleasanton	\$51.17	79,464	1	\$4,124,212
Alameda City	\$59.93	81,312	3	\$4,897,331
Livermore	\$ 63.16	91,861	3	\$ 5,903,294
Oakland	\$ 97.41	433,697	18	\$42,619,842
Berkeley	\$ 166.67	122,580	5	\$20,734,529

FUNDING

Additionally, Contra Costa County Library ranks 114th out of 183 public library systems statewide when looking at funding per capita.

By any measure, the Contra Costa County Library is significantly underfunded and as a result, many residents have limited access to the library facilities and services they need and deserve. This scarcity of funding has been acknowledged by the County in both its current General Plan and new draft General Plan.

- Services provided by the County Library System shall be maintained and improved by providing adequate funding for ongoing operations, and by providing new library facilities to meet the needs of County residents, particularly in growing areas where library service standards are not being met. Contra Costa County General Plan 2005-2020 (7-159)
- Ensure the County's budget provides adequate funding for maintaining and improving library operations. Contra Costa County 2021 Draft General Plan (PFS-P11.3)
- Identify areas where library service standards are not being met and seek funding to provide new library facilities that will achieve the standards. Contra Costa County 2021 Draft General Plan (PFS-A11.1)

In 2016, the Contra Costa County Library Commission, the community advisory body to the Board of Supervisors and County Librarian, identified severe shortages in the Library's ability to serve county residents. The report, *Promoting Excellence in Library Service in Contra Costa County*, Contra Costa County Library Commission, 2016, highlighted:

- [T]he Library's funding model ...puts some community libraries at a distinct disadvantage in comparison to their peer libraries located within the county's wealthier communities.
- [Concluded] that funding for the Library is not adequate... and that inequities in Library services continue despite the expressed need for the Library to reach out to underserved populations.
- [Recommended the County] identify mechanisms to increase county support of Library services that could include a future ballot measure.

CITY PARTNERSHIPS

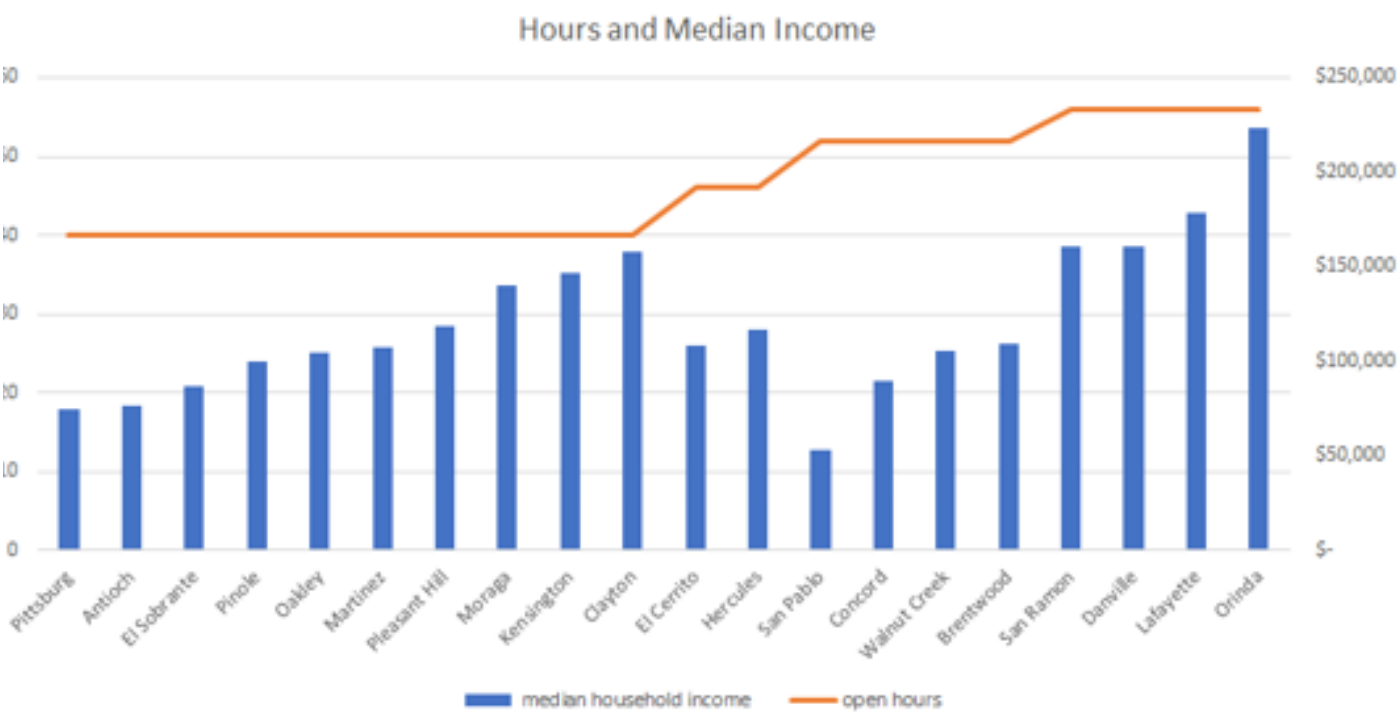
The County funds a base level of 40 weekly open hours at all full-service libraries. Even though the Library is funded at such a minimal level, the Library was able to increase the base number of weekly open hours from 35 to 40 beginning this fiscal year by maximizing operating efficiencies. The base level of 40 hours provides the maximum number of hours the County can fund across all 26 locations. If cities would like the libraries in their communities to be open more than 40 hours per week, they may contribute funding for additional open hours, up to 56 hours per week. Currently, 12 cities are funding extra open hours:

City	County-Funded Hours	City-Funded Extra Hours	Total open hours
Antioch	40	0	40
Bay Point*	34.5	n/a	34.5
Brentwood	40	12	52
Clayton	40	0	40
Concord	40	12	52
Crockett*	18	n/a	24
Danville	40	16	56
Dougherty Station	40	6	46
El Cerrito	40	6	46
El Sobrante	40	n/a	40
Hercules	40	6	46
Kensington	40	n/a	40
Lafayette	40	16	56
Martinez	40	0	40
Moraga	40	0	40
Oakley	40	0	40
Orinda	40	16	56
Pinole	40	0	40
Pittsburg	40	0	40
Pleasant Hill	40	0	40
Prewett*	35	n/a	35
Rodeo*	18	n/a	23
San Pablo	40	12	52
San Ramon	40	16	56
Walnut Creek	40	12	52
Ygnacio Valley	40	12	52

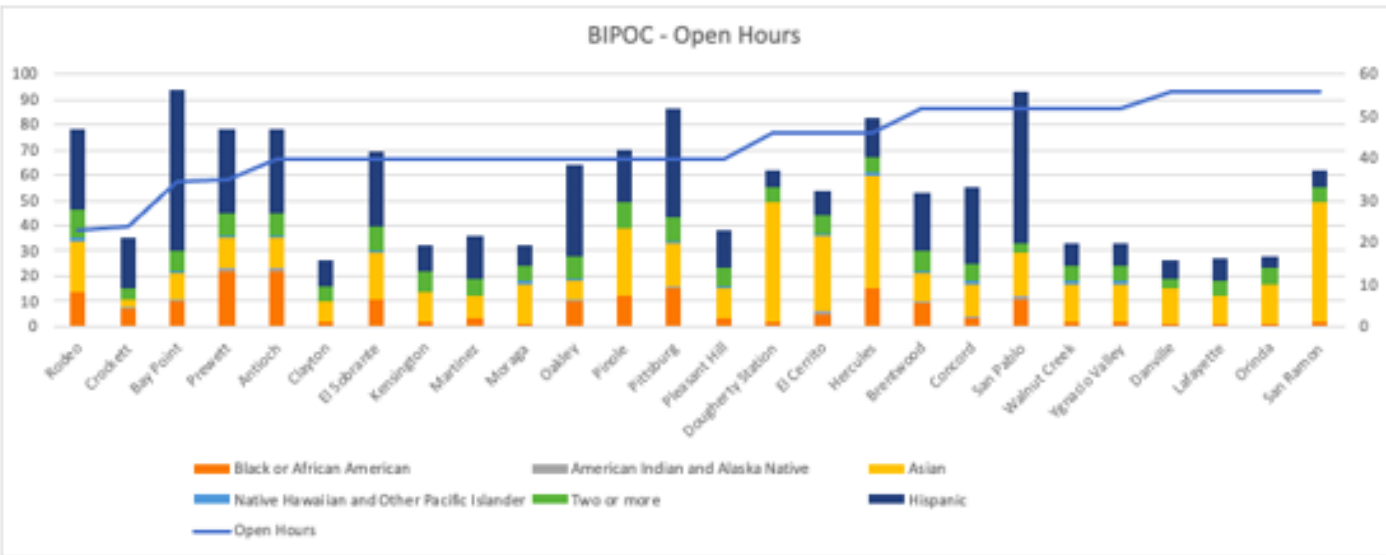
*outlets, not full-service libraries

FUNDING DISPARITY

This current funding model for open hours results in a very uneven playing field. In general, cities with less wealthy residents have access to fewer library open hours in their own communities compared to cities with wealthier residents. It should also be noted that given the current model, libraries in unincorporated areas do not ever have the option or opportunity to be open more than the county-funded base level of open hours.



Also of note, in general, county residents who are Black, Indigenous, People of Color (BIPOC) have less access to library open hours and services in their own communities.



FUNDING DISPARITY

Funding from Measure X to increase the County's base level of weekly open hours to 56 will correct the inadequate number of base hours currently provided. The County provided base hours has led to the unfortunate and harmful reality that, in general, wealthier residents have more access to library services and facilities than those who are less wealthy. The additional ongoing annual funding necessary to increase the base level of weekly open hours from 40 to 56 is \$22 million. Increasing from a 40-base model to a 56 base model is a 40 percent increase in the number of base weekly open hours. Measure X dollars for open hours will increase the library's budget by 60 percent. In addition to open hours, Measure X funding will provide corresponding improvements in support operations. These include increased data and network support, increased and newer collections, outreach to meet critical community needs, and many more books and materials. This increase will put Contra Costa County at an adequate level of funding that is more closely aligned with other libraries in the East Bay and with libraries in the Bay Area.

Library	Funding per Person	Population of Service Area	Number of Libraries	Library budget FY 19-20
Richmond	\$47.68	111,217	3	\$5,903,333
Alameda	\$49.54	613,679	10	\$35,234,732
Contra Costa	\$53.99	1,042,344	26	\$57,714,141
Solano	\$55.96	389,856	9	\$22,745,956
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Berkeley	\$ 166.67	122,580	5	\$20,734,529

FACILITIES

For the most part, library facilities are owned by the cities. There are some exceptions to this, namely the library facilities in the unincorporated areas of El Sobrante, Kensington and Rodeo, and the libraries in Antioch, Pinole and Ygnacio Valley (Walnut Creek), all of which are owned by the county. With the exception of El Sobrante which was recently remodeled after a fire, these facilities have significant deferred maintenance needs. This backlog of deferred maintenance is the result of the low funding allocated to the library, which means the Library has to choose between addressing extremely expensive facility repairs and upgrades (e.g. ADA improvements, roofs, parking lots, HVAC replacements, electrical upgrades, etc) or library services and open hours. The Library has always chosen to prioritize services and open hours with its very limited funding. One-time Measure X funding of approximately \$8.1 million will address these much-needed and long-overdue facility repairs and upgrades and will vastly improve the quality of library facilities in those communities. These improvements will enable these libraries to act as cooling and warming centers and upgrade the basic infrastructure so that there is an increased capacity to support modern technology.



ADDRESSING THE NEEDS ASSESSMENT FINDINGS

The following are services, initiatives and partnerships that will be expanded and built upon if all libraries are open 56 hours per week. This is not an exhaustive description of library services, resources and initiatives, but instead highlights what the Library has to offer to address gaps identified in the 2020 Contra Costa County Needs Assessment. By opening 56 hours per week, the Library will be able to increase by 20 percent the following services and partnerships in the communities where they are needed most.

Needs Assessment: Early Childcare

Early Childhood Education

The Library is a critical part of the early childhood education infrastructure. Although the Library is available and provides services to all residents regardless of age, children's services are the 'bread and butter' of the library's work and services. On average, the Library offers 5,600 children's events, classes and programs annually to approximately 225,000 attendees. The children's collection consists of almost 500,000 items with close to 2,000,000 checkouts per year.

Storytime

On average, the Contra Costa County Library offers 65 story times each week over all its branches. The Every Child Ready to Read Initiative identifies six pre-reading skills children must have before they can learn to read (vocabulary, print awareness, print motivation, letter knowledge, narrative skills, and phonological awareness). Storytimes are designed by library professionals to engage children in developing these skills. At the same time, storytimes model to parents and caregivers good early literacy practices while at the same time promoting access to library resources.

Early Learning Events

The Every Child Ready to Read Initiative also identifies the early literacy practices of talking, singing, reading, writing, playing as essential to early childhood development. Early learning events, involving music and arts and crafts support these early literacy practices in a variety of ways. Music programs help kids to learn to rhyme in order to hear the parts of words, arts and craft programs help them with their small and large motor skills, so they are ready to learn to write. All early learning programs provide opportunities for kids to be with their peers and participate in real world social and emotional learning and executive-function building so they are ready to step into kindergarten with the confidence to learn. On average, the Library offers more than 50 early learning events each month across all its branches.

Needs Assessment: Early Childcare

School Readiness

Kindergarten Countdown is offered each year at all library locations. The activities taught are designed to promote the early literacy skills of talking, singing, reading, writing, playing, fine-motor skills and self-help. In 2019, more than 1000 children participated. The Library also uses the Bay Area Discovery Museum's Center for Childhood Creativity's School Readiness Toolkit to strengthen school readiness skills for children who don't attend traditional preschool programs.

Summer Reading

The Summer Reading Program is for all ages, however, the vast majority of participants are children. For young children, the program is designed to encourage families to visit the library, read often and complete early learning activities created around the skills young children need to practice so they are ready to read (singing, talking, writing, and playing). Everyone who finishes also receives a new board book of their choice for their home library. For school-aged children, the summer reading program is an effective way to help mitigate 'summer slide'.

Family Literacy Program

Project Second Chance's family literacy program provides support to adults experiencing low literacy and their families with the aim of empowering parents and caregivers to help their children develop literacy skills. The program serves the families of both adults currently enrolled in the Library's adult literacy program, and other low-literate adults in Contra Costa County. In FY 20-21, over 200 families participated in a PSC family literacy event or activity. Over 1,000 books and literacy materials were provided to families to help them build home libraries.

Early Literacy Partnerships

The Library partners with a vast number of other county departments and early literacy-focused community based organizations. These partnerships support both entities to reach populations they may not be able to reach alone. As stated in the Needs Assessment, the goal of these partnerships is to, "... [increase] the availability of enriching learning opportunities which are both accessible and affordable.

Chit-Chat Preschool Connection

Library and Chit-Chat partner to offer on-going All Ability Playgroups in many libraries. These events allow families the opportunity to connect with speech and language pathologists so they can ask questions and be connected to free services to address any developmental concerns they may have.

Needs Assessment: Early Childcare

Contra Costa County Health Centers and Clinics

Reach Out and Read (ROR) is a national organization that provides training to pediatric staff at local health clinics. Staff at county public health clinics deliver vital information about the importance of reading at routine well baby checkups and then provide a free books to families for their home libraries. The books are funded by the Wilruss Children's Library Trust at Contra Costa County Library.

First 5 Contra Costa

All centers in the county invite library staff to host events many times each year to deliver and promote library services and early literacy support to the families they serve in Concord and East County.

Food Bank of Contra Costa and Solano

Library staff attends food distribution events in Antioch, Bay Point, Concord, Pittsburg, and San Pablo in order to promote library services and provide free books for home libraries.

Help Me Grow

Help Me Grow (HMG) works to connect families who have young children with developmental concerns to early intervention services. HMG staff train librarians so they can promote the service to families as appropriate. Library staff also give library orientations to HMG participants at their quarterly Help Me Grow Cafés.

Housing Authority of the County of Contra Costa

The Housing Authority partners with the Library's Book Rich Environment program to provide books and literacy information to families in subsidized housing. Many joint events are held throughout the year in the subsidized housing neighborhoods throughout the county.

Preschool and TK Classes

Library staff regularly conduct storytime at preschool and transitional kindergarten classes throughout the county to teach the children and teachers about the library and its resources.

Needs Assessment: Early Childcare

REadingADvantage

REadingADvantage is a volunteer-led early literacy non-profit focused on promoting the value of reading to kids every day from birth. The Library has a position on their board and participates in all of their projects in the east and west parts of the county.

Tandem Partners in Early Learning

Tandem works with the Library on the National Book Foundation's Book Rich Environment initiative to provide books and literacy information to families in subsidized housing. The Library and Tandem co-host many joint events throughout the year, both in the libraries and in onsite at subsidized housing developments.

Women, Infant & Children (WIC) - Contra Costa Health Services

Library staff make monthly visits to the waiting area of the WIC offices in Pittsburg and San Pablo to read with the children waiting for their appointments. Library staff also connect parents to early learning and library information and make sure that the offices are stocked with informational pamphlets about the Library in both English and Spanish.

Needs Assessment: Safety Net Programs

In addition to focusing on early childhood education, the Library also serves as a safety-net support for those who do not have access to critical services. The Library – hundreds of times each week – helps county residents to find and use critical wraparound services. The Library makes a point of initiating and implementing services using an equity lens and partnering with organizations who prioritize services to those most in need.

Project Second Chance

Project Second Chance (PSC) is the Library's adult literacy program. It provides free and confidential basic literacy tutoring to adults in Contra Costa County who speak conversational English and read, write, or spell at or below a sixth-grade level. Tutoring is done by trained volunteers with the support of professional staff. Tutoring takes place in libraries and other public locations throughout Contra Costa County Library's service area, as well as online. In 2019-20, PSC served 198 adult learners with the assistance of 172 volunteer tutors. Two-thirds of enrolled adult learners met at least one of their literacy goals, such as earning a driver's license, passing the citizenship exam, getting a promotion at work, or being able to read to a child. About one third of PSC students were born and educated in the United States but never learned to read and write at the level they wish – often due to a learning disability such as dyslexia. Others are non-native English speakers who can speak English but wish to improve their basic literacy skills.

Needs Assessment: Safety Net Programs

Bridging the Digital Divide

Lendable Wi-Fi Hotspots

The Library currently has 200 lendable Wi-Fi hotspots for at-home use. Libraries in impacted communities have hotspot devices that are only available for walk-up checkout and cannot be reserved and sent to other libraries to fulfill requests. This keeps these devices available in the communities where there are the lowest rates of at-home internet access.

In-Library Wi-Fi

The library offers free wireless internet access in all its buildings, which in some locations can also be accessed from the parking lot or other outside areas. On average, there are 430,000 Wi-Fi logins across all libraries annually.

In Library Computers

The library has a total of 700 computers and laptops across all its branches available for people to use in the library during library open hours. These computers not only have internet access, but also have the Microsoft Office Suite. In fiscal year 18-19 (the last year for which an entire year's worth of data is available) these computers were used a total of 441,905 times.

Supporting Vulnerable Populations

English Conversation Groups

English Conversation Groups offer a place where Adult English language learners can come together in a friendly informal environment to share experiences, expand vocabulary and practice speaking English. In 2019, nine libraries offered 400 sessions of English Conversation Groups to over 3000 participants. In 2020, the library pivoted to online English Conversation Groups and English language learners who had previously been unable to attend due to childcare and transportation issues were able to participate.

Citizenship Workshops

The library partners with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service to help residents become American citizens. In 2019, the Library hosted two citizenship workshops with 60 attendees.

Legal Clinics

The Library partners with the American Bar Association to offer free, one-on-one sessions between immigration lawyers and people who need legal advice related to immigration and/or citizenship. In 2019, the Library held 4 of these events that served 52 people.

Needs Assessment: Safety Net Programs

Supporting Vulnerable Populations

Bilingual Staff

The Library currently employs ten bilingual library staff. Spanish speaking staff work at the Bay Point, Concord, Antioch, Oakley, Pittsburg, Lafayette and San Pablo Libraries; and Chinese speaking staff work at the El Cerrito Library. These staff offer bilingual storytimes and provide a welcoming and inclusive environment for library users who speak languages other than English.

Meals at the Library

Contra Costa County Library has been partnering with local school districts since 2014 to provide summer meals in impacted communities. Participating branches are Antioch, Concord, Crockett, El Cerrito, El Sobrante, Martinez, Pinole, Pittsburg, Rodeo and San Pablo. Meals at the Library provides children and teens with free summer meals, summer reading activities, and other enrichment activities that support learning, health, and wellness. Meals at the Library introduces new families to the library where staff can connect adult family members with essential resources and services. The Library has recently expanded this initiative to include afterschool meals and produce give away at many of its locations. During the summer of 2020, the library distributed 12,071 free meals at 7 locations.

Homework Help

Several libraries (in non-COVID times) offer free homework help after school for families who cannot afford private tutors or do not speak English well enough to help their children with homework.

Discover & Go

Discover & Go offers free and low-cost passes for over 90 museums, science centers, zoos, theatres, and other cultural destinations to library cardholders. Contra Costa County Library allocates passes using an equity lens based on the zip code of the library cardholder.

Libraries at Juvenile Hall and OAYRF

The Library partners closely with the County Probation Department and the County Office of Education to bring library services to incarcerated youth. There are currently 24 youth at Juvenile Hall and 14 at Oren Allen Youth Rehabilitation Facility. Residents visit the onsite libraries once a week and check out books to bring back to their residences. According to the librarian there, "Many of the kids tell me they had never really read a book or been in a library until they came to the one in Juvenile Hall, and now they are in love with reading because of their visits."

Needs Assessment: Safety Net Programs

Supporting Vulnerable Populations

Contra Costa Parole and Community Teams (P.A.C.T.)

Each month representatives from the Library attend P.A.C.T. meetings. The State of California's Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation hold these meetings for adults recently released from prison, to connect them to services such as job skills and housing. The library attends these meetings and provides free library cards, free books and information on library locations and services. Parolees who are parents are also given picture books to help them reconnect with their children.

Student Success Cards

The California Student Success Initiative creates partnerships between schools and public libraries. The library creates accounts for every student in a partner school, which allows students access to both physical collections and online resources using their school ID. This initiative was successfully piloted with the Antioch Unified School District and currently the Library is working with the County Superintendent of Schools to implement this in all schools districts in Contra Costa County.

North Richmond

Although there is currently no physical library facility in North Richmond, Contra Costa County Library received grant funding to create an early literacy reading room inside the Shields-Reid Community Center. The center opened to the public in March of 2020. The reading room includes children's books, an early learning computer and early learning toys for young children. Staff from the San Pablo Library provide regular storytimes and an ESL Kids Conversation Club every Thursday. Library staff also participate in outreach events in the community, and every child and teen who is enrolled in the summer recreation camp at Shields-Reid participates in the library's Summer Reading Program. Additionally, the Library has received grant funding to install RemoteLockers™ at the North Richmond Senior Center so residents can go online to place holds on library materials and have them delivered to the Senior Center.

Narcan

Library staff have been trained by Contra Costa County Health Services to administer Narcan to visitors of the library that may be experiencing an opioid overdose. Each library branch has a supply of Narcan to administer in the event of an emergency.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives

The Library presents a wide range public programs and events that reflect the diversity of the county from bilingual storytimes to programs on Women's Suffrage, Asian American Pacific Islander Month, Black History Month, BIPOC Mental Health Month and LGBTQ+ issues. The Library includes diverse titles in all booklists highlighted on its website. Each month, a different booklist is featured as well as blog posts celebrating Pride, Asian American Pacific Islander Month, Black Lives Matter, and racial equity in general.

Collections That Reflect the Community

The community expects library collections that represent their needs and interests. The library will be conducting a diversity audit of the entire collection of 1.5 million items. Collections will be assessed for representation of the county's diverse communities as well as being inclusive of a wide variety of points of view and experiences. Results will be used to update the Library's Collection Development Plan, the guiding document for collection selection across the Library.

Increasing Equity in Collections

The Library has increased equity among its collections by weighting the collection budget using National School Lunch Program data. Previously, the annual allocations for library collections were based on annual checkouts of materials and city population. The impact was that wealthier communities had larger, newer collections because the hours a library is open, the larger number of items will be checked out. This meant that libraries with fewer hours had outdated and heavily used collections. The communities benefiting from this project include Antioch, Bay Point, Concord, Oakley, Pittsburg, and San Pablo.

Lite Reads

Coming to the Library in the fall of 2021, Lite Reads is a collection of titles curated specifically for new adult readers. The books use simple vocabulary and have short chapters while maintaining high interest and relevant storylines for adults. The Lite Collection is featured regionally throughout the county, is available to all and easily browsable. The Lite Reads collection will make the libraries inviting to PSC students and will expand the in-house collections at each PSC location. This collection will also hold appeal for English language learners.

Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Initiatives

International Languages

The Library's International language collection offers material for adults, young adults, and children in formats that include books, periodicals, and audio-visual materials. The library is currently focusing on expanding Spanish and Chinese collections to better meet the growing demand county-wide. The library also supports Farsi, Russian and Tagalog in specific locations. Additionally, the Library's eBook offerings include both Spanish and Chinese titles.

Racial Equity Training for Staff

In October of 2020, Contra Costa County Library began a 2-year training initiative to provide racial equity training for all staff with Lori Watson, Ed.D., of Race-Work, LLC. The training initiative was spearheaded and suggested by the Library's EDI Committee. Dr. Watson was chosen for her experience and dedication to racial equity and diversity, and in leading conversations that may be uncomfortable in matters of equity and inclusion. The initiative included listening sessions between Dr. Watson and Library Leadership, Library Leadership and the EDI Committee (facilitated by Dr. Watson), and the EDI Committee and Dr. Watson. Thus far, approximately 165 staff have taken the training. This training is an important step in furthering the Library's goal of equitable access for all and in supporting Contra Costa County's upcoming efforts in implementing fundamental and foundational shifts in how it delivers public service.



PARTNERSHIPS

The Library shares and supports many of the same goals as several local community based organizations (CBOs) and other county departments. Library staff partner closely with a wide variety of CBOs in order to introduce their clients to the Library and its resources, and to aid our partners in expanding their reach and impact. The Library prioritizes partnering with CBOs who focus on and address equity issues in our communities. In addition to the early literacy partners listed above, the Library has active partnerships with the following groups:

- County Elections Department
- County Employment and Human Services
- County Health Department
- County Health Housing and Homelessness
- ARC Inroads, RES Success and other programs for adults with developmental disabilities
- All local schools and school districts
- Stand Together Contra Costa
- Adult Education Departments at all three Community Colleges Districts in Contra Costa – Los Medanos, Diablo Valley, Contra Costa
- Local Senior Centers
- Monument Crisis Center
- Rainbow Center
- United Way Volunteer Income Tax Assistance
- AARP (free tax preparation)



RECOMMENDATION

Measure X funding has the unprecedented potential to transform the county's libraries and the services they provide to the public. If adequately funded, the Library is uniquely positioned to have a deep and far-reaching effect on addressing the disparities in our communities that lead to poorer life outcomes for residents in impacted communities. By increasing open hours, the Library can meet the goals of improved access to safety-net resources and increased early childhood education. Contra Costa County Libraries are trusted and much-loved institutions uniquely positioned to improve and enhance the lives of the county's most vulnerable residents. With libraries in almost every city and community in the county, combined with the vast number of partnerships that have been fostered over the years, Measure X funding allocated to the Library would have an exponentially beneficial impact for Contra Costa County residents.





Contra Costa County Library **Strategic Plan 2019**



A Renewed Focus

INTRODUCTION

“Public libraries are the sole community centers left in America. The degree to which a branch of the local library is connected to the larger culture is a reflection of the degree to which the community itself is connected to the larger culture.” – Russell Banks

MISSION

Bringing people and ideas together

VISION

Contra Costa County Library is the pulse of our community. Working together, we spark imagination, fuel potential, and connect people with ideas and each other

The need for connection and community is essential. And yet, with a highly mobile population, community is quickly becoming a blend of backgrounds, interests and lifestyles, making those connections increasingly difficult. The characteristics that once distinguished one community from another are blurring.

The good news is that we know there are still common threads that unify communities. Within our county, Contra Costa County Library is one such unifier. Day in and day out, we bring ideas and people together to fulfill our mission in ways large and small.

As we took a strategic look at our future, we considered demographic trends across our service area, sought customer input, and assessed our performance. The result of our planning efforts is an updated strategic plan that will guide our work and will allow for annual reviews and adjustments.

The previous plan identified our vision to, “reflect the place the library holds in the minds and hearts of the community – what we call ‘The Evocative Library.’” We seek to be a community unifier by serving the public and providing an array of experiences that are responsive to community needs. To spark imagination and fuel potential we seek to respond to needs quickly while keeping quality of service in mind at all times.



Our core goal is to champion personal and community engagement. We do this by championing literacy and reading. These are not generic words to us. We see your relationship with the library as essential to your success. Whether that be professional ambition, exploring storytime with your tots, engaging in a civic discussion, or finding a good read, we are the place to help you meet your personal goals. We believe the library has the unique ability to bring communities together through shared culture and experiences. We also believe literacy and reading are core skills every person needs to achieve their full potential, whatever that may mean. As Frederick Douglass stated, “Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.” The other goals support the core goal: we provide equitable and easy access to services, we deliver a consistent and high-quality experience, and finally, we promote the library’s value, programs and opportunities to the community.

The following sections outline our strategic goals, highlight key strategies, and identify how we will measure success.

GOAL 1:

The library champions personal and community engagement in literacy and reading to enrich lives.



OBJECTIVES:

Objective A – Increase opportunities for literacy, education, and lifelong learning by a minimum of 10 percent.

Objective B – Increase library visits by 10 percent.

Objective C – Increase website visits by 10 percent.

Objective D – Increase active users by 10 percent annually.

Objective E – Increase circulation by 10 percent annually.

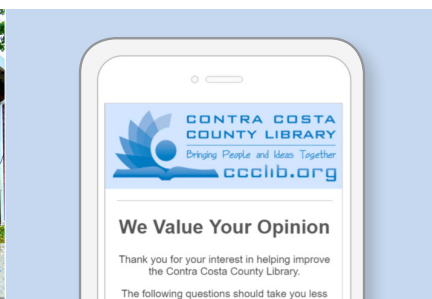


KEY STRATEGIES:

Plan and Promote Targeted Outreach Utilize data and customer feedback to create outreach opportunities across the county to gain new cardholders

Website Update Implement new website increasing ease of access for online users

Create Dynamic Planning Efforts Empower branches and departments to create services that align with system-wide goals



Goals	GOAL 2: The library ensures easy, equitable access to library services for all Contra Costa County residents.	GOAL 3: The library delivers a consistent, high-quality, and inviting experience at all points of contact.	GOAL 4: The library successfully promotes its value, programs, and opportunities to the community.
Objectives	<p>Objective A – Expand services to identified underserved populations a minimum of 10 percent.</p> <p>Objective B – Optimize hours at the community level and other service points to increase usage by 10 percent.</p> <p>Objective C – Enact initiatives to increase direct use of library services by non-active users by 10 percent.</p>	<p>Objective A – Enact barrier-free customer service to improve user satisfaction levels by 10 percent.</p> <p>Objective B – Assess all facilities and develop methods to increase user satisfaction levels by 10 percent.</p> <p>Objective C – Create a long-term vision for library facilities to serve evolving community needs and address equity of resources.</p> <p>Objective D – Explore and implement technology to enhance the customer experience.</p> <p>Objective E – Establish standards of preparedness to respond to and recover from emergencies.</p>	<p>Objective A – Update the library-wide marketing communications plan.</p> <p>Objective B – Implement county-wide marketing of library services.</p> <p>Objective C – Implement a staff-wide strategic marketing and communications plan.</p>
Strategies	<p>Needs Assessment: Utilize standard research practices to identify economic and demographic factors for developing pilot programs</p> <p>Implement and Communicate Measurement of Library Usage: Report system and branch measurements of Library's reach and engagement with cardholders</p> <p>Standardize Programming and Services: Organize and standardize Contra Costa County Library programming to create consistent experience across communities</p>	<p>Implement Annual Cardholder Survey: Provide customers ability to give feedback on an annual basis. Surveys will be compared year over year to address changing needs</p> <p>Implement Weekly Net Promoter Score Survey: Net Promoter Score provides recurring voice of the customer so Library can follow up with customers about their library experience</p> <p>Increase Customer Transparency: Provide the public quarterly updates of library usage measurements</p>	<p>Create and Implement Targeted Marketing Plan: Plan an annual marketing effort that includes targeted messaging, events, outreach, and in-branch promotions</p> <p>Standardize Branding and Customer Experience: Branches align merchandising and branding with Contra Costa County Library strategic and marketing priorities</p> <p>Create Framework to Measure Outputs: Measurement and tracking of physical spaces allows Library to plan and promote resources according to strategic priorities</p>

A REALISTIC, MEASURABLE, AND CONSISTENT EFFORT

To be accountable to our community, we will measure our planning efforts and operate in an environment of continuous improvement. In 2018, we created a progress report to inform stakeholders and the public of our efforts surrounding the 2014 – 2017 strategic plan. You may find the progress report online at ccclib.org. In keeping with the trend of visibility and data driven tactics, we will also collect ongoing feedback, as listening to the needs of the community and adapting are what will keep the strategic plan relevant and beneficial for years to come. Specifically, we will use measures gained to set milestones for progress. We will also focus on customer retention, so we are sure to meet community needs. And with our core goal of literacy and reading, we will evaluate usefulness of digital services to keep up with cultural trends.

From: [WenOsch-postpro](#)
To: [Walter Beveridge](#)
Subject: Additional Funding for CCC Public Libraries
Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 1:39:51 PM

To: The Measure X Community Advisory Board

Because of the pivotal role our public libraries play in connecting individuals and communities, I am writing to urge you to support the request of the Contra Costa County librarian for additional funding so our libraries can offer the above-named services for extended hours.

Both Jane Austen and Jorge Luis Borges compared the library to Paradise. From a more earthly perspective, I would argue that a community's health can be judged by the vibrancy and adaptability of its library. My local public library, for example, served as a COVID-19 testing site this past year.

Libraries bind together and strengthen our communities.

- They offer free access to everyone and are one of the last great equalizers in our country.
- Community members on the wrong side of the digital divide rely on their libraries for Internet access.
- Public libraries serve the entire community, from toddler to senior citizen, and are a source of supplemental materials for our underfunded public schools.

And as if those weren't enough, libraries also make available space for lectures, classes, arts and crafts, performances, meetings, and a host of other activities that connect people of varied interests. Isn't that what community is about?

If we value it, we should fund it.

Sincerely,
Wendy Oschmann
Pinole

Whatever the cost of our libraries, the price is cheap compared to that of an ignorant nation.
~Walter Cronkite

Libraries will get you through times of no money better than money will get you through times of no libraries.
~Anne Herbert

The health of our civilization, the depth of our awareness about the underpinnings of our culture and our concern for the future can all be tested by how well we support our libraries.

~ Carl Sagan

A public library is the most democratic thing in the world. What can be found there has undone dictators and tyrants.

~ Doris Lessing

Without libraries what have we? We have no past and no future.

~Ray Bradbury

The truth is libraries are raucous clubhouses for free speech, controversy and community.

~Paula Poundstone

Dear Measure X Community Advisory Board:

On behalf of the El Cerrito City Council, I am writing to urge you to recommend allocating an appropriate proportion of Measure X funds to provide for an expanded county library budget. This allocation would directly support a countywide increase to 56 hours for **all** branches, facility upgrades (which are desperately needed in many of our county's libraries, particularly those located in impacted communities), staffing, collection development, and operational support.

The County Librarian's request is fully consistent with the purposes of Measure X, especially the following key targets:

- Support crucial safety-net services
- Invest in early childhood services
- Protect vulnerable populations
- Fund other essential services

The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed and exacerbated many of the divides that increasingly define our region. During the yearlong+ closure, our county library staff demonstrated how vital their services are to our community members, particularly those who are under-resourced and overburdened. They handed out free lunches and produce, mobile hotspots, literacy materials, and craft kits; delivered books to homebound community members; conducted robust online programming; assisted patrons with unemployment, EBT benefits, tutoring services, and accessing other crucial safety net services—the list goes on and on. Libraries are truly the place where democracy shows the true extent of its promise and potential. Our investment in *them* reflects the degree of our investment in our egalitarian social and political aspirations.

The Contra Costa County Library's per capita operating income falls woefully short of the median for libraries statewide, and particularly that of other Bay Area county libraries. Our system receives funding equivalent to 1.5% of 1% of property tax for all properties (aside from those in the city of Richmond, which operates its own library system). This amount accounts for just .97% of the county's current budget. Currently, the cost of additional operational hours beyond the county-funded minimum threshold is borne by cities, as is facilities maintenance. While *some* of our county's cities and their libraries' respective friends' groups and foundations can pitch in substantively to fill in the opportunity and equity gaps produced by this scant level of support—in services, programming, open hours, facilities maintenance, etc.—many others simply cannot. This also applies to libraries in unincorporated areas, such as El Sobrante, Kensington (both within District 1), and Bay Point (located in District 5) that do not have a potential city base from which to draw. The resulting picture is wildly disparate. In other words, the current funding model and allocation reflects, contributes to, and even exacerbates our county's inequities. ***We can and we must do better.*** The significant revenue expected from the Measure X initiative (estimated at \$81M/year) has the potential to level the playing field and to infuse our library system's delivery of equitable services and contributions to impactful outcomes with real backbone.

Measure X is an unprecedented opportunity to address and ***redress*** some of the massive disparities—both their causes and effects—in our region's healthcare, education, housing, public safety, economic, and environmental sectors, among others. Libraries are one of the most vital spaces of civic involvement and education, literacy promotion, and intellectual freedom in a democratic state. And they have increasingly become part of the social safety net for many populations, especially our most vulnerable community members. There is no doubt that we need more vigorous and inclusive community services, and there is no doubt that this funding boost can help make that happen. I understand that the library's

ask is but one competing interest in ultimate allocation, but I hope you can see how capably it responds to the core imperatives of the Measure X specifications.

We have recently written to the Advisory Board to request that you recommend funding for the Community Crisis Initiative. We understand that you will be offering endorsements for a number of items—our request on behalf of the county library is not meant to be in opposition to the Community Crisis Initiative. We urge you to support *both* the Community Crisis Initiative and our County Librarian's initiative. Both of these allocations reflect the intention and integrity behind Measure X, and all of our community members will derive benefits from their enhanced support.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,
Paul Fadelli
Mayor, City of El Cerrito

From: [Michael Fischer](#)
To: [Alison McKee](#); [Walter Beveridge](#)
Cc: [Peter Wilson](#)
Subject: Fwd: Measure X Funds for Increased Library Hours
Date: Friday, July 16, 2021 12:10:05 AM

Hi Alison and Walt —

I have written email tonight to my city council urging their support for our request for Measure X funds. I have also written to my ground of library community leaders asking for an all-hands-on-deck output of letters of support. I'm sending this to you should you think it is useful to share it with the other commissioners. I believe I promised I would do that tonight.

Michael

Michael A. Fischer (he him)
eclibrarycommissioner@gmail.com
El Cerrito City Designated Library Commissioner
Vice Chair, Contra Costa County Library Commission

Library Hours Provide Vital Access to Services for Our Most Needy

On July 16, 2021 at 00:05:40, Michael Fischer (eclibrarycommissioner@gmail.com) wrote:

Friends —

See below which explains the possibility for a countywide increase in library hours of up to 56 hours funded by Measure X. The time is short — comments need to be made by July 27 to the Measure X Advisory Board. The email should be sent to lisa.Driscoll@cao.cccounty.us. Please do so and request everyone in the county that you know to do so. My own view, which I ask that you not share, is that we might get some extra hours — either 46 or 52 but that 56 is unlikely. But it doesn't hurt to ask.

As you can see, I'm asking the city council to support this measure as well and, unless the Brown Act creates a problem, I'm expecting that they will do so. Therefore I don't think there is a need for letters to the city council. But the library community, and everyone else you know, need to flood the Advisory Board on this issue.

The arguments should stress the equity issue — on internet access, literacy, and learning. It is not possible for many working poor people to get to the library during the 40 or 46 hours that the library is open due to work conflicts. This is exacerbated by the current situation when even though the library is open 46 hours a week, it is still closed on both Sunday AND Monday.

I am preparing a draft letter for my request to the city council and will share it with you when it is done (no later than Tuesday). If you want to use that, and share it with your friends and acquaintances when you ask them to also write the Measure X Advisory Board, that is fine with me. Obviously I also have no objection to you putting your own words to paper. But I stress, and I hope you will stress to all those who you are urging to support this request, the deadline of July 27. This really is an all-hands-on-deck request.

I should, in the spirit of full disclosure, also note that should this request make the cut in terms of the Advisory Board's list of priorities to the Board of Supervisors, we will also have a similar drill sometime in October of this year.

Is this a viable possibility. Yes! I know the library administration has spent a good deal of staff time preparing their request (which I hope to have to share soon). They are overworked and don't generally tilt at windmills. So we need to back them up.

Michael A. Fischer (he him)
eclibrarycommissioner@gmail.com
El Cerrito City Designated Library Commissioner
Vice Chair, Contra Costa County Library Commission

Library Hours Provide Vital Access to Services for Our Most Needy

On July 15, 2021 at 23:40:31, Michael Fischer (eclibrarycommissioner@gmail.com) wrote:

Dear Mayor Fadelli, Council Members, and City Manager
Pinkos —

I am excited to share with you a matter which could be a significant game changer in regard to library issues in El Cerrito.

As you know, Measure X was passed by the voters at the November, 2020 election and the Board of Supervisors has created a Measure X Advisory Board. That Board is to make recommendations, in August, to the Supervisors, regarding allocation of the funding stream from that measure.

County Librarian Alison McKee will be appearing before the Advisory Board on July 28 to present a proposal by the County Library to utilize some of the Measure X funds to provide for an increase in county provided hours for library operation countywide of 56 hours a week, all at county expense. Not only would this relieve the city of the cost of providing hours in excess of 40 hours a week, it would provide a strong argument in support of a new library for El Cerrito since the library would be available to the public for 56 hours.

I just found out about this tonight at the Library Commission meeting. I intend to appear at the City Council meeting next Tuesday, in the public comment period, to ask the council to send a letter of support for the County Library's request to the Measure X Advisory Board. I will also ask the council, at a later date, to further support this request, should it still be viable and under consideration by the Board of Supervisors. I expect the later to be an item on a future consent agenda as a report by me as Library Commissioner.

The only City Council meeting before the July 28 deadline for submitting letters of support for the County Library's request is the July 20 City Council meeting. The agenda for that meeting

has already been released. I will, therefore, request that the council waive the agenda notice requirement under the urgency exception to the Brown Act in my public comment on Tuesday. I am presenting this information to you now so that you are not taken by surprise by this request.

I am also preparing a draft letter of support that I will submit, together with written comments, no later than 4 pm on Tuesday as further public comment, although I will attempt to do so earlier. The letter will stress equity and education issues which form the principal purposes behind Measure X. I will also appear in the general public comment period.

I would also request, should the council deem it appropriate, that a representative of the city appear before the Measure X Advisory Board on July 28. I also plan to do so.

I am sharing this email with the leadership of the El Cerrito library community so that they can be aware of the issue and, I hope, organize a campaign of support on this issue to the Measure X Advisory Board.

Please let me know if there is a problem with making this request. Should it for any reason not be possible, I instead ask that you, individually, support the proposal by the County Librarian before the Measure X Advisory Board.

Michael A. Fischer (he him)
eclibrarycommissioner@gmail.com
El Cerrito City Designated Library Commissioner
Vice Chair, Contra Costa County Library Commission

Library Hours Provide Vital Access to Services for Our Most Needy

July 22, 2021



E-TRANSMITTAL/ U.S. REGULAR MAIL

Ms. Mariana Moore, Chair
Measure X Community Advisory Board
County Administrator's Office (CAO)
1025 Escobar Street, 4th Floor
Martinez, CA 94553

RE: MEASURE X FUNDING ALLOCATION SUPPORT FOR THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY BUDGET

Dear Chair Moore and Members of the Measure X Community Advisory Board:

On behalf of the San Pablo City Council, I am writing to urge you to recommend allocating an appropriate proportion of Measure X funding to provide for an expanded Contra Costa County Library Budget. In San Pablo, our ongoing partnership with Contra Costa County Library Services has been vital in providing critical and much needed services in our community.

Any Measure X allocation would directly support a County-wide increase to **56 hours for all County Library** branches, facility upgrades (which are desperately needed in many of our county's libraries, particularly those located in impacted communities), staffing, collection development, and operational support.

The County Librarian's request is fully consistent with the purposes of Measure X, especially the following key targets:

- Support crucial safety-net services
- Invest in early childhood services
- Protect vulnerable populations
- Fund other essential services

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and exacerbated many of the divides that increasingly define our region. During the year-long closure, our County Library staff demonstrated how vital their services are to our community members, particularly those who are under-resourced and overburdened. They handed out free lunches and produce, mobile hotspots, literacy materials, and craft kits; delivered books to homebound community members; conducted robust online programming; assisted patrons with unemployment, EBT benefits, tutoring services, and accessing other crucial safety net services—the list goes on and on.

The Contra Costa County Library's per capita operating income falls significantly short of the median for libraries state-wide, and particularly that of other Bay Area County Libraries. Our County Library system receives funding equivalent to 1.5% of 1% of property tax for all properties (aside from those in the city of Richmond, which operates its own library system). This amount accounts for just 0.97% of the County's current operating GF budget.

Currently, the cost of additional operational hours beyond the County-funded minimum threshold is borne by local cities, like San Pablo, as well as facilities maintenance. While *some* of our County's cities and their libraries' have library support groups and foundations that contribute substantively to fill in the equity gaps produced by minimum level of support in services, programming, open hours, facilities maintenance, etc. There are many others who simply cannot. This also applies to County libraries in unincorporated areas, such as El Sobrante, Kensington (both within District 1), and Bay Point (located in District 5) that do not have a potential local City base from which to draw. The resulting picture is wildly disparate. In other words, the current funding model and allocation reflects, contributes to, and even exacerbates our county's inequities. ***We can and we must do better for our County's system of libraries.***

The significant revenue expected from the Measure X Sales Tax Measure (estimated at \$81M/year) has the potential to level the playing field and to infuse our County Library system's delivery of equitable services and contributions to impactful outcomes with real backbone. Measure X is an unprecedented opportunity to address and ***redress*** some of the massive disparities— both their causes and effects—in our region's healthcare, education, housing, public safety, economic, and environmental sectors, among others. Local libraries are one of the most vital spaces of civic involvement and education, literacy promotion, and intellectual freedom in a democratic state, and they have increasingly become part of the social safety net for many populations, especially our most vulnerable populations.

There is no doubt that we need more vigorous and inclusive community services, and there is no doubt that this funding boost can assist in this endeavor. I understand that the County Library's funding request is one competing interest among a number of other competing interests you are considering for overall Measure X funding allocation. However, I hope you can see how capably it responds to the core imperatives of the Measure X sales tax funding measure.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Pabon-Alvarado, Mayor
City of San Pablo

cc: County Supervisor John Gioia, First District (John.Gioia@bos.cccounty.us)
Monica Nino, County CAO (Monica.Nino@cao.cccounty.us)
Lisa Driscoll, County Finance Director (Lisa.Driscoll@cao.cccounty.us)
Allison McKee, Contra Costa County Librarian (Alison.Mckee@library.cccounty.us)

San Pablo City Council
City Manager
City Attorney

July 23, 2021

Dear Measure X Advisory Board,

I am the new Moraga Library Commissioner and was excited to learn from our County Librarian that she will be speaking to you about a proposal. This proposal is to allocate some of the Measure X funds toward our county library branches and could be a significant game changer in regard to library hours and services in our county libraries.

As you make recommendations, in August, to the Supervisors, regarding allocation of the funding stream from Measure X please consider our libraries. A robust and available library benefits everyone in a community. With more funding, all of our branch libraries would benefit and would move toward equalizing services for every town and city in Contra Costa County.

Please consider supporting this proposal by Alison McKee, County Librarian, before your Board on July 28th.

Libraries provide vital access to services for everyone and is the backbone of a healthy community.

Sincerely,

Sarah Morgan

Moraga Library Commissioner & Teacher-Librarian

From: [Lorena Ellenberger](#)
To: [Walter Beveridge](#)
Subject: Libraries are the best
Date: Friday, July 23, 2021 8:37:03 AM

Libraries are extremely important and should be considered high priority

Sent from my iPhone

To: Measure X Advisory Board

I am writing to support our county librarian's request for additional funding which will be used to increase the base number of hours our library can be open. The libraries in the county are not uniformly supported due to the various budget demands each city faces. Pinole is a full-service city with substantial monies allocated to both the city's police and fire departments along with various other needed services and staff. It has not been possible for us to pay for additional hours – yet the need is there. We have people in our city who rely on the library for essential services like computer access and wifi. We also have an exceptionally large community room where we host programs for all ages and needs. Additional hours would mean that we could meet even more of our citizens' request for services while having a safe space for reading and information gathering that can be used by even more people.

Libraries are one of the last civic community destinations – and the most egalitarian.

Please give our county librarian's request all due consideration.

George Pursley, Contra Costa Library Commissioner for Pinole

Devin Murphy, City Councilperson, Pinole

Michael Ashburne, Pinole Progressive Alliance

Clover Catskill, Pinole Progressive Alliance

Hours and Median Income



Library	Funding per Person	No. of residents/servi ce area	No. of Libraries	Library budget
Contra Costa	\$32.89	1,042,344	26	\$35,714,141
Alameda	\$49.54	613,679	10	\$35,234,732
Solano	\$55.96	389,856	9	\$22,745,956
Napa	\$77.85	133,015	4	\$11,213,195
Marin	\$122.83	142,424	10	\$19,993,341



July 22, 2021

Dear Measure X Community Advisory Board Members:

As a Councilmember for the City of El Cerrito, I am writing in support of Measure X funds that could provide for an expanded county library budget and directly support the increase in hours of operation, staffing and collection development. I believe this request easily follows the purposes of the key targets for Measure X in Contra Costa County by:

- supporting crucial safety-net services;
- investing in early childhood services;
- protecting vulnerable populations; and
- funding other essential services.

And, like the other recent recommendation made to the Advisory Board by the El Cerrito City Council to fund the Community Crisis Initiative, I believe also requesting assistance for our growing county library needs would help rectify local equity concerns in many cities, like El Cerrito, which may be experiencing difficult financial circumstances at this time.

The Contra Costa County Library's per capita operating income falls woefully short of the median for libraries statewide, and particularly that of other Bay Area County libraries. El Cerrito has stepped up to add some additional hours but at the cost of other services and needs, amid very contentious community debate.

Equitable funding from Measure X will help to provide additional service hours where they are most needed and help to close the equity gap where wealthier cities can rely on well-funded community donations to enhance their library programs.

Additional Measure X funds for El Cerrito would offset our local funds for other critical city needs while we plan to rebuild and create a modern library to meet the needs of El Cerrito and the surrounding communities. Should ongoing Measure X funds be established for county libraries, it would assist our efforts for a new library facility. In addition to possible state and federal funds, I believe an ongoing commitment for additional county funds could importantly assist in establishing a much improved and safer library experience for all our county residents.

Thank you for your consideration using Measure X funding for this worthy county cause.

Sincerely,

Lisa Motoyama
Councilmember, City of El Cerrito

CC: El Cerrito Council Members, Michael Alan Fischer, Supervisor John Gioia, Contra Costa County Librarian

From: [Tommy Smith](#)
To: [Lisa Driscoll](#)
Cc: [Alison McKee](#); [Walter Beveridge](#)
Subject: Measure X funds for Equitable Library Access
Date: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 8:35:28 PM

To the Members of the Measure X Citizen's Advisory Board,

I am writing in support of the proposal by County Librarian Alison McKee to allocate a proportion of Measure X funds for additional county-paid library hours.

This proposal aligns with the intent of Measure X in supporting safety-net services; early childhood education, and protecting vulnerable populations. Our libraries provide essential services in literacy for children and adults. Libraries are key in bridging the digital divide by providing free internet access. Libraries provide relief as cooling stations, increasingly necessary as we suffer the effects of climate change. Our Concord library even provides nutritional and wellness support for youth with free lunches and programs on diet and exercise.

The funding proposal will establish standardized and equitable library hours countywide, eliminating the disparities in access to this vital public institution that are exasperated by the current funding model. Equal hours will ensure equal access and increase the availability of the library's literacy programs, free digital access and other community services for all.

We urge your support for increased county funded library hours.

Sincerely yours,

Tommy Smith, Library Commissioner, City of Concord

Sent from my iPad



July 22, 2021

Dear Measure X Community Advisory Board:

As a councilmember of the City of El Cerrito, I to urge you recommend allocating an appropriate proportion of Measure X funds to provide for additional Page 5 of 7 county-paid library hours. This request is consistent with four of the stated purposes of Measure X:

- Support crucial safety-net services
- Invest in early childhood services
- Protect vulnerable populations
- Fund other essential services

The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed clearly to all the digital divide between rich and poor and the increasing important of internet access. This is one of the reasons that, even amid a significant city fiscal crisis, our council voted 4-1 to provide funding for additional library hours so that those without other means to access the interest could still do so.

Of course, our libraries also provide other important services such as promoting reading skills in young children and providing literacy education to adults. The libraries are a valuable resource of information about the pandemic. And libraries provide an important respite to those experiencing homelessness both from life on the street and the increasing ill effects of climate change.

The current system of minimal library hours provided by the county with the burden to provide adequate library hours falling on the cities results in those cities with higher household income often being able to afford this cost while other cities cannot. This is not equitable and is the very thing Measure X was designed to help alleviate.

The City of El Cerrito has recently written you requesting that you also recommend funding for the Community Crisis Initiative. I understand that you will be providing recommendations for funding several items and our request on library hours is not meant to be in opposition to the Community Crisis Initiative.

City of El Cerrito
Re: Measure X and Library Funding
Page 2 of 2

I urge you as the Measure X Community Advisory Board to support both the Community Crisis Initiative and increased county funded library hours. These items are just what Measure X was intended to support, especially since all members of our county and all communities will benefit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tessa Rudnick', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Tessa Rudnick
Councilmember, City of El Cerrito

CC: El Cerrito Council Members, Michael Alan Fischer, Supervisor John Gioia,
Contra Costa County Librarian

From: [Michael Cluster](#)
To: [Lisa Driscoll](#)
Cc: [Walter Beveridge](#)
Subject: measure X funds for library
Date: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 2:05:41 PM

Dear Lisa & Advisory Board,

Please allocate Measure X funds to expand library hours at all the branches of the county library to 56 hours. The library provides both educational materials as well as computer access to citizens of all ages and incomes, including those who may have no other access and hosts childrens programs and other community services.

Thank you,

Mike Cluster
3593 Halifax Way
Concord Ca 94520

From: [John Huh](#)
To: [Walter Beveridge](#)
Subject: Re: Measure X letters are due to me by Friday morning, 7/23
Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 9:54:59 PM

Dear Walter Beveridge,

I have sent a requesting letter to Antioch City Mayor Lamar Thorpe for his requesting letter to Measure X Community Advisory Board for allocating Measure X Fund for Library Hours yesterday. I believe he send in his letter by July 26,2021.

I am sending in my letter of request as follow;

Dear Measure X Community Advisory' Board

Ref; Use of Measure X Fund for Library Hours.

I, John M. Huh, Antioch City nominated Contra Costa County Library Commissioner, humbly request to Contra Costa County Measure X Advisory Board allocating an appropriate Proportion of Measure X Fund to provide for additional County Paid Library Hours. This requesting is consistent with four(4) of the (7) Measure X Purposes;

- * Support Crucial Safety Net Services
- * Invest in Early Childhood Services
- * protect Vulnerable Populations
- * Fund other Essentials Services.

The request for additional Library hours clearly falls within the above four items to be addressed by Measure X.

A significant part of current problem with the uneven distribution of Library opening hours from the lack of adequate funding for libraries. For example; Antioch Libraries are able to open 40hours/ week and Orinda Library is opening 56 hours/week. This problem has been with us for some time and results from the joint responsibility for libraries input County between the cities and county. Richer cities can afford better libraries opening

Whatever the justification for this arrangement in past, the Measure X money can fix it.

As the Contra Costa County Library Commission observed in 2016, in a population tilted Promoting Excellence in Library Service in Contra Costa County.

The Library's funding model— puts some community libraries at a distinct disadvantage in comparison to their peer libraries located within the county's wealthier community —

Our primary conclusions are that funding for the Library is not "adequate — and that inequalities in Library Services continue despite the expressed need for the Library to reach out to underserved populations.

The County Librarian's request, and we Commissioners request to the Measure X Advisory Board is an attempt to right this inequitable wrong.

I thank you, in advance, for your most favorable recommendation for County Libraries.

Very Sincerely Yours

Signed by
John M. Huh, Antioch , Library Commissioner

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

On Wednesday, July 21, 2021, 11:02 AM, Walter Beveridge
<walter.beveridge@library.cccounty.us> wrote:

Good morning:

Any letters you are writing that will be included in Alison's packet to the MeasXAB need to be in my inbox by Friday morning at the latest in order to be included. That is the day Alison's packet is due to Lisa Driscoll.

FYI

Regards,

Walter Beveridge

Executive Secretary

Contra Costa County Library

777 Arnold Drive, #210

Martinez, CA 94553

(O) 925-608-7730 (C) 925-818-0049

CITY OF CONCORD
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
1950 Parkside Drive
Concord, California 94520-4805
Telephone: (925) 671-3158
FAX: (925) 798-0636



CITY COUNCIL
Tim A. McGallian, Mayor
Dominic D. Aliano, Vice Mayor
Edi E. Birsan
Laura M. Hoffmeister
Carlyn S. Obringer

Patti Barsotti, City Treasurer
Valerie J. Barone, City Manager

July 20, 2021

Lisa Driscoll
County Finance Director
Contra Costa County
1025 Escobar Street, 4th Floor
Martinez, CA 94553

RE: Measure X Funding for Increasing Library Hours

Dear Ms. Driscoll,

The City of Concord would like to express our strong support for Measure X funding to go toward increasing equitable access to the library by raising hours for all libraries to 56 hours per week and hiring the necessary staff to support

Increased hours will create more convenient access for all Concord citizens, particularly underserved residents that depend on the Library for internet access, adult literacy and workforce development programs, all at county expense.

For these reasons, the City of Concord wholeheartedly supports funding from Measure X to increase hours for all libraries.

Sincerely,

Timothy McGallian
Mayor
City of Concord

cc: City Council
Supervisor Karen Mitchoff
Valerie Barone, City Manager
Susanne Brown, City Attorney
Joelle Fockler, City Clerk
Niccolo De Luca, Townsend Public Affairs
Walter Beveridge, County Library Executive Secretary

Presentation of Michael A. Fischer in support of County Librarian Alison McKee's request for Measure X Funds

eclibrarycommissioner@gmail.com

I am the El Cerrito Designated Library Commissioner for Contra Costa County. This email is written in my personal capacity and does not represent the view of the Contra Costa County Library Commission. This letter is written in support of County Librarian Alison McKee's request for the the Measure X Advisory Board to include increased library hours in its list of recommended funding proposals using Measure X funds.

I also write this as one of the unofficial leaders of the El Cerrito area library community which includes patrons of our branch library from El Cerrito and surrounding areas including both incorporated and unincorporated areas of Richmond. It is my duty to obsess about library issues including such things as library hours.

I note that the El Cerrito City Council, which appointed me, passed a motion in June authorizing support of Measure X funding to support the Contra Costa County Community Crisis Initiative. I do not believe that these two requests are in conflict. Indeed, they both are worthy of funding. The fact that the mayor and members of the

City Council support both requests indicates that they agree.

The County Librarian's request is fully consistent with the purposes of Measure X. As the Advisory Board knows, the funding provided by that measure is to be used for the following:

- Keep Contra Costa's regional hospital open and staffed;
- Fund community health centers;
- Provide timely fire and emergency response;
- Support crucial safety-net services;
- Invest in early childhood services;
- Protect vulnerable populations; and
- Fund other essential services.

The request for additional library hours clearly falls within the last four items to be addressed by Measure X and which are underlined above.

The City of El Cerrito strongly believes that funding for robust library hours is a critically important equity issue. That's why they voted, last month, in the midst of a significant fiscal crisis, to provide city funding for library hours in addition to the county provided minimum hours. They took this action because under the present system that is the only way to have additional hours.

So, how are the hours a library is open an equity issue, providing crucial safety-net services to vulnerable populations and investing in early childhood services? Let's start by exploring the services our libraries offer and then examine the effect of library hours on these services.

Important Library Services

1. Broadband Access and Usage

As United States Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer has noted on several occasions, broadband access to the internet today is what access to electricity was in the 1930s. It is essential for receiving many governmental services. We all remember earlier this year when the best way, indeed often the only real way, to get an appointment for a life-critical coronavirus vaccination was through internet access. This is only one of innumerable ways one needs the internet today. It is not a luxury. Broadband access to the internet has become a utility, a necessity to everyday life. David Lazarus, the business columnist for the Los Angeles Times has discussed this here: <https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2020-10-23/coronavirus-internet-is-a-utility>.

Indeed, the State Budget this year contains several billion dollars to provide improved internet access and the Federal Jobs Act is expected to provide significant funds as well. But the reality is that some of our residents will not be able to afford this even if it is available, and even if it is subsidized. The costs of the equipment and the monthly access charge can be significant. And for some, our libraries also provide the information needed to allow them to access the internet. Without the means to afford the equipment, or without the knowledge of how to connect, a fiber cable means nothing. Our libraries provide internet access through their wifi signals, through the public access computers that are in each library, and by means of offering assistance to those who need it to connect.

One of the biggest issues that the global coronavirus pandemic has shown is the digital divide. People, especially the economically disadvantaged and underserved populations, need the internet to access services and get information about jobs and training. These needs have been exacerbated by the pandemic but they existed before and will remain once the pandemic is over.

There is hard statistical evidence from the El Cerrito library that shows the need for this internet access. In

2018, the El Cerrito City Council voted to fund increased library hours from the 35 hours per week then provided by the county to 50 hours per week — about a 43% increase in the time the library was open. By contrast the internet usage on the library's public access computers increased over 100% at a time when countywide the internet usage remained flat. Increasing library hours resulted in a two for one increase in internet access. The obvious conclusion from this is that the new hours not only provided more time for traditionally underserved people to be able to access the internet, but it provided that at times that were more available to those users.

How serious is the lack of access to the internet? According to the none-too-good and probably significantly understated data available from the FCC, 28% of our fellow Contra Costans lack broadband access. And what does this cohort look like — they are overwhelmingly poor, people of color, and seniors.

2. Aid to People Experiencing Homelessness

Then 2020 Contra Costa Annual Point in Time Count (<https://cchealth.org/h3/coc/pdf/PIT-report-2020.pdf>) was taken on January 22, 2020 and showed that on that date there were 2,277 people experiencing homelessness in our county, 1,570 were unsheltered, and 707 were

sheltered. Seven percent were minors and 16% were seniors. This survey took place before the global coronavirus pandemic which surely has exacerbated the situation.

Those experiencing homelessness are significantly people of color: 23% are Latinx; 29% are Black; 8% are Native American.

How do libraries serve people experiencing homelessness. A library represents a place where a person can find out about training and jobs and apply for some of them; find out about shelters and other governmental services; and get all sorts of other assistance those of us privileged to have homes take for granted. Libraries also provide a respite, a place where a person can be free from the noise and disruption of life on the streets.

3. Education at all age levels

Libraries provide an important educational service. Story time provides an introduction to very young children to the wonder that is in books, creating in them a desire to read which is so essential to success in our society. The “read to a dog” program provides young readers with the confidence they need to become proficient readers. And “Project Second Chance” teaches literacy to adults

throughout the county, including a person who wants to be able to read and complete a job application and a grandparent who wants to be able to read to their grandchild.

A study issued in July of this year by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago examined the effect of public library investment (in this case involving capital improvements) on student achievement measured by test scores (<https://www.edworkingpapers.com/sites/default/files/ai21-386.pdf>). The study found that investments in libraries resulted in an increase in the students' reading scores while it had no effect on their math scores. This is consistent with the emphasis on reading and books that remains the heart of our libraries' mission.

Other programs the libraries offer include tutoring to students. Economically disadvantaged parents need these services which can be self-financed by those with greater resources.

4. Climate change

Libraries also provide a respite to our most vulnerable population to effects of climate change. A poor person is, even if housed, less likely to have air filters and air conditioning. But many of our libraries do have them. So

when the weather is extremely hot, or when the air is smokey because of fires, a library represents a place when one can breathe cooler and cleaner air courtesy of the HVAC system of the library.

How Our Libraries Are Funded

Our county library system, bluntly put, favors richer communities simply based on its organization. Whether this is the intention of the system is not the issue; this is the effect. It is not unique among library systems but it is the system on which we can have some effect. So we have to do whatever we can to work against this aspect of the system.

The structure of the library system is that of a joint enterprise between the county and nearly all its cities. (For historical reasons the City of Richmond has an independent library system.) Each city provides the building for a library and its maintenance. (In certain unincorporated areas the county provides the building.) The county provides the collection for that library branch, the administration and equipment, and enough personnel to have the library open 40 hours a week. If a cities wishes to, it can pay the county to keep the library open for additional hours. This works out to schedules like this:

- Under the 40 hour plan, a library will be closed Sunday and Monday and only open past 6 pm on Tuesday.
- Under the 46 hour plan, a library will be closed the same two days but open past 6 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.
- Under the 52 hour plan a library is only closed on Sunday and is open past 6 pm on Monday and Tuesday.
- Under the 56 hour plan a library is only closed on Sunday and is open past 6 pm on Monday through Thursday.

It should come as no surprise, as shown in the County Librarian's presentation, that the four cities which have their libraries open 56 hours a week are the four cities with the largest household income in the county. This is the antithesis of equity.

Comparing the per person expenditures on the library by the county versus our surrounding counties, based on the numbers in the County Librarian's report, shows Contra Costa clearly at the bottom of such spending. The following figures show the percentage above the Contra Costa County expenditure in these counties:

Alameda:	+ 51%
Solano:	+ 70%
Napa:	+137%
Marin	+273%

This is not the first time this inequity and disparity has been pointed out. In 2016, the Contra Costa County Library Commission noted, in a publication titled *Promoting Excellence in Library Service in Contra Costa County*: “[T]he Library’s funding model ... puts some community libraries at a distinct disadvantage in comparison to their peer libraries located within the county’s wealthier community.Our primary conclusions are that funding for the Library is not adequate ... and that **inequities in Library services** continue despite the expressed need for the Library to reach out to underserved populations.”

In 2016 the money to correct this hugely inequitable wrong arguably wasn’t available. But whatever the justification for this arrangement in the past, the existence of Measure X money to fix it makes the change imperative.

Conclusion: What a Difference Hours Make

Libraries means different things to different people. They do serve a variety of needs. And the hours a library is open have different effects on different people.

As a Library Commissioner, I sometimes get asked whether we even need to have physical library buildings anymore. Perhaps this is true to a person:

- Who can afford to be and is often online from their home;
- Who owns a computer or tablet that serves as an electronic book reader;
- Who chooses not to participate in the rich variety of free programs each library offers its patrons (only a few of which have been mentioned here)

But to others — especially people of color, poor people, and seniors — the various services a library provides that are highlighted above are essential to their physical, emotional, and intellectual needs. To these people, (and they are the people who are most intended to be assisted by Measure X funds) libraries serve as what is sometimes called a “second responder” role: (<https://www.theatlantic.com/notes/2019/05/when-libraries-are-second-responders/590098/>)

The services to our most needy that are provided by our libraries all share one common aspect. They are only available to a patron when they can come to the library at a time the library is open. Like an umbrella, a library doesn't work for them when it is closed.

There is one additional advantage to the proposal by the County Librarian. It is truly a win-win proposal for all Contra Costans. To see this you only need to go visit one of our libraries. Libraries rank as one of the most popular functions of our government across the population.

People using our libraries are as diverse as our county. In the words of former California Poet Laureate Dana Gioia, libraries are the one place in a community where everyone feels safe and welcome. As shown above, they fill many needs of our most vulnerable. And Contra Costans deserve to have a robust access to them.

From: [Peter Wilson](#)
To: [Garrett Evans](#)
Cc: zlefrak@aol.com; [Alison McKee](#); [Michael Allan Fischer](#); [Walter Beveridge](#)
Subject: Re: More on Measure X
Date: Thursday, July 22, 2021 11:00:10 AM

Many thanks Garrett.

Peter A. Wilson
190 Pelican Loop
Pittsburg, CA 94565
925-360-7170



Virus-free. www.avast.com

On Thu, Jul 22, 2021 at 10:58 AM Garrett Evans <GEvans@ci.pittsburg.ca.us> wrote:
Thank you.

We will have the letter done today.

Garrett Evans
City Manager

On Jul 22, 2021, at 10:25 AM, Peter Wilson <peteralbertwilson@gmail.com> wrote:

****External Sender: Use caution before opening links or attachments****

Good Morning Garrett,

This is just an additional thought. When the library is open, in addition to access to wi-fi, computers, books, magazines, newspapers and a wealth of educational programs, residents can pick up important application forms e.g. voter registration, low income housing as well as information about vocational and recreational opportunities. Only being open late (until 8 p.m.) only one day a week, and closed on Sunday and Monday, restricts access to people who work. That includes many students who must work full-time to help support their families and themselves. I know you are aware of this, but many aren't. It is an additional piece of information that you and the Council may wish to include in your letter. Zelda LsFrak-Bellici, Pittsburg's representative on the Library Commission, reminded me of this.

Have a good day,

Peter

Peter A. Wilson
190 Pelican Loop
Pittsburg, CA 94565
925-360-7170

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On Tue, Jul 20, 2021 at 5:34 PM Peter Wilson
<peteralbertwilson@gmail.com<mailto:peteralbertwilson@gmail.com>> wrote:
Dear Mayor Craft, Pittsburg City Council members, and City Manager Garrett,

The request put forth by the County Librarian to augment County support for open hours at all of our libraries is fully consistent with the purposes of Measure X. The funds provided by that measure, estimated to be at least \$88 million a year, are to be used for the following:

- Keep Contra Costa's regional hospital open and staffed;
- Fund community health centers;
- Provide timely fire and emergency response;
- Support crucial safety-net services;
- Invest in early childhood services;
- Protect vulnerable populations; and
- Fund other essential services.

The request for additional library hours clearly falls within the last four items to be addressed by Measure X which are underlined above.

I understand the Pittsburg Council has considered augmenting its library's County funded open hours in the past, but budgetary limitations prevented it from taking this much needed action. Recognizing the wealth-based inequities associated with access to this critical educational resource that exist across the County, the County Librarian, Alison McKee, has stepped forward with a Measure X proposal to address them.

As the information provided by County Librarian McKee shows, the existence of city funded library hours at the highest level basically tracks city household income. The four cities with the greatest number of city-funded library hours are those with the highest household income. (See Exhibit A attached.)

A significant part of the problem with the uneven distribution of library hours comes from the lack of adequate funding for libraries under the present system. This results in a per person expenditure in Contra Costa County that is substantially below that in neighboring counties. (See Exhibit B attached.)

This problem has been with us for some time and results from the joint responsibility for libraries in our county between the cities and the county. Richer cities can afford better libraries and libraries that are open more. Whatever the justification for this arrangement in the past, the existence of Measure X money to fix it makes the change imperative.

As the Contra Costa County Library Commission observed in 2016, in a publication titled Promoting Excellence in Library Service in Contra Costa County,

[T]he Library's funding model ... puts some community libraries at a distinct disadvantage in comparison to their peer libraries located within the county's wealthier community.... Our primary conclusions are that funding for the Library is not adequate ... and that inequities in Library services continue despite the expressed need for the Library to reach out to underserved populations."

Members of this Council have recognized, rightly, that the operation of our libraries should properly be a county rather than a city expense. Unfortunately, this view, which I share, runs into the reality that the cost of operational hours below an inadequate minimum are imposed on the cities. The County Librarian's request to the Measure X Advisory Board is an attempt to right this inequitable wrong. Our City Council should strongly support the request.

You will find below for your consideration a draft letter on behalf of the City to the Measure X Advisory Board. I stress the use of the term draft. Please edit it however the Council feels appropriate.

Whatever the City's final letter is, It should be sent to lisa.driscoll@cao.cccounty.us<mailto:lisa.driscoll@cao.cccounty.us> with a copy to the County Librarian: alison.mckee@library.cccounty.us<mailto:alison.mckee@library.cccounty.us> for inclusion in her packet of presentation materials.

Draft Letter

Dear Measure X Community Advisory Board:

On behalf of the City of Pittsburg Council, I am writing to urge you to recommend allocating an appropriate proportion of Measure X funds to provide for additional county-paid library hours.

This request is consistent with four of the stated purposes of Measure X:

- Support crucial safety-net services;
- Invest in early childhood services;
- Protect vulnerable populations; and
- Fund other essential services.

The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed clearly to all the digital divide between rich and poor and the increasing importance of internet access.

Our libraries also provide other important services such as promoting reading skills in young children and providing literacy education to adults. The libraries are a valuable resource of information about the pandemic. And libraries provide an important respite to those experiencing homelessness both from life on the street and the increasing ill effects of climate change.

The current system of minimal library hours provided by the county with the burden to provide adequate library hours falling on the cities results in those cities with higher household income often being able to afford this cost while other cities cannot. This is not equitable and is the very thing Measure X was designed to help alleviate.

It is far past time that we allow some libraries, generally those in less wealthy areas, to offer 40% fewer hours of service per week, close as residents leave work and need access, and remain closed two days a week.

Sincerely yours,

Please let me know if you have questions or desire additional information.

Cordially,

Peter A. Wilson
190 Pelican Loop
Pittsburg, CA 94565
925-360-7170

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Dear Measure X Community Advisory Board:

On behalf of the Pinole City Council, I am writing to urge you to recommend allocating an appropriate proportion of Measure X funds to provide for an expanded county library budget. This allocation would directly support a countywide increase to 56 hours for **all** branches, facility upgrades (which are desperately needed in many of our county's libraries, particularly those located in impacted communities), staffing, collection development, and operational support.

The County Librarian's request is fully consistent with the purposes of Measure X, especially the following key targets:

- Support crucial safety-net services
- Invest in early childhood services
- Protect vulnerable populations
- Fund other essential services

The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed and exacerbated many of the divides that increasingly define our region. During the yearlong+ closure, our county library staff demonstrated how vital their services are to our community members, particularly those who are under-resourced and overburdened. They handed out free lunches and produce, mobile hotspots, literacy materials, and craft kits; delivered books to homebound community members; conducted robust online programming; assisted patrons with unemployment, EBT benefits, tutoring services, and accessing other crucial safety net services—the list goes on and on. Libraries are truly the place where democracy shows the true extent of its promise and potential. Our investment in *them* reflects the degree of our investment in our egalitarian social and political aspirations.

The Contra Costa County Library's per capita operating income falls woefully short of the median for libraries statewide, and particularly that of other Bay Area county libraries. Our system receives funding equivalent to 1.5% of 1% of property tax for all properties (aside from those in the city of Richmond, which operates its own library system). This amount accounts for just .97% of the county's current budget. Currently, the cost of additional operational hours beyond the county-funded minimum threshold is borne by cities, as is facilities maintenance. While *some* of our county's cities and their libraries' respective friends' groups and foundations can pitch in substantively to fill in the opportunity and equity gaps produced by this scant level of support—in services, programming, open hours, facilities maintenance, etc.—many others simply cannot. This also applies to libraries in unincorporated areas, such as El Sobrante, Kensington (both within District 1), and Bay Point (located in District 5) that do not have a potential city base from which to draw. The resulting picture is wildly disparate. In other words, the current funding model and allocation reflects, contributes to, and even exacerbates our county's inequities. ***We can and we must do better.*** The significant revenue expected from the Measure X initiative (estimated at \$81M/year) has the potential to level the playing field and to infuse our library system's delivery of equitable services and contributions to impactful outcomes with real backbone.

Measure X is an unprecedented opportunity to address and ***redress*** some of the massive disparities—both their causes and effects—in our region's healthcare, education, housing, public safety, economic, and environmental sectors, among others. Libraries are one of the most vital spaces of civic involvement and education, literacy promotion, and intellectual freedom in a democratic state. And they have increasingly become part of the social safety net for many populations, especially our most vulnerable community members. There is no doubt that we need more vigorous and inclusive community services, and there is no doubt that this funding boost can help make that happen. I understand that the library's

ask is but one competing interest in ultimate allocation, but I hope you can see how capably it responds to the core imperatives of the Measure X specifications.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,
Norma Martinez-Rubin
Mayor, City of Pinole

Dear Representative DeSaulnier,

I am writing to ask for your support in bringing **S. 127, the Build America's Libraries Act** to fruition.

As Contra Costa County's District 1 Library Commissioner, I can tell you unequivocally that this bill would be a game changer for the libraries within my purview, for our countywide system, and for libraries and communities in need across the country.

Libraries have always been both the lifeblood and the lifeline of their communities. This statement reflects the long arc of their history as well as their vital role during the pandemic. Librarians provided so many critical services during this emergent time: handing out thousands of free meals, mobile hotspots, and craft kits; delivering books to homebound community members; assisting patrons with unemployment, EBT benefits, and other crucial safety net services—the list goes on and on. They are truly the place where democracy shows the true extent of its promise and potential.

Congress has the opportunity to allocate \$5 billion to assist the nation's libraries to address challenges such as natural disasters, COVID-19, advanced technology, environmental hazards, and accessibility. The Bay Area, Contra Costa County, and my district in particular exhibit stunning disparities in individual and community wealth and influence. Although our county allocates funds equally to each branch, some of them benefit from additional sources of support, e.g., their city government, "friends' groups," and local donors. These cities often have extraordinarily modern, well-equipped, and amply funded libraries. And yet, other libraries are sited in historically impacted and under-resourced communities with fewer funding levers, and still others reside in unincorporated areas (including 2 of the 5 libraries within my district) that have zero access to the same local municipal coffers. This tension—really a tragedy—between the "have's" and the "have not's" is palpable in our region (and beyond). It enacts a divisive social dynamic and corrosive psychological effect on our community members. We stand at a critical junction, where our nation's moral fabric can either be systematically mended or further rended. By prioritizing library infrastructure and bringing more resources to the places and people who need it most, you can help tip the scales in the right direction.

Within the five libraries in my district, there are two that are in dire need of repairs, renovation, expansion, and/or reconstruction. Both of these sites, one in El Cerrito and the other in the unincorporated area of Kensington, have significant infrastructure, accessibility, and design challenges that cannot be addressed via available funding streams, e.g., leaky roofs, faulty or non-existent HVAC systems, non-ADA-compliant bookshelves, lack of study and meeting rooms, etc. We are working in multiple ways at the systemic level to address these needs and inequities. But we need the bold and swift agenda that the Biden administration has the power to enact. And we need it now.

Please raise your voice to ensure that this moment is seized to its fullest potential and to bring our libraries, our librarians, and our community members a future endowed with equity, honor, and hope.

Thank you for your consideration,
Rachel Rosekind, PhD, Contra Costa County Library District 1 Commissioner

20 July 2021

Ms. Mariana Moore, Chair, Measure X Community Advisory Board
c/o Lisa Driscoll, Contra Costa County Finance Director

I am writing to endorse the Contra Costa County Librarian's appeal to the Measure X Community Advisory Board to allocate funding that will provide enhanced stability and equity to our county's residents. Support for the library system's initiative would signal a firm commitment to fulfilling the county's equity goals, across multiple sectors, and to prioritizing inclusion as a principle of community organization.

I applied for and was appointed as District 1 Library Commissioner by Supervisor Gioia due to my passion for prioritizing the needs of our underserved community members. Measure X provides an important opportunity to enact that mission.

The Contra Costa County Library's per capita operating income falls woefully short of the median for libraries statewide, and particularly that of other Bay Area county libraries. Our system receives funding equivalent to 1.5% of 1% of property tax for all properties (aside from those in the city of Richmond, which operates its own library system). This amount accounts for just .97% of the county's current budget. Currently, the cost of additional operational hours beyond the county-funded minimum threshold is borne by cities, as is facilities maintenance. While *some* of our county's cities and their libraries' respective friends' groups and foundations can pitch in substantively to fill in the opportunity and equity gaps produced by this scant level of support—in services, programming, open hours, facilities maintenance, etc.—many others simply cannot. This also applies to libraries in unincorporated areas, such as El Sobrante, Kensington (both within District 1), and Bay Point (located in District 5) that do not have a potential city funding base from which to draw. The resulting picture is wildly disparate. To illustrate this point, the four cities with the greatest number of city-funded library hours at present are those with the highest household income. During a recent county needs assessment, one community member put this blunt reality in stark perspective: *"Fix your system. The libraries in the different communities could not be a more blatant illustration of the divide between 'haves and have-nots' in this county. Poor kids see that what the county thinks they deserve are understaffed libraries and ratty books, libraries that are closed more than they're opened. Rich neighborhoods meanwhile get the best of the best. Is that what libraries are supposed to be about?"*

In other words, the current funding model and allocation reflects, contributes to, and even exacerbates our county's inequities. ***We can and we must do better.***

The existing state of our county's library funding does not serve all community members, and it certainly does not serve them all equally. The significant revenue expected from the Measure X initiative has the potential to level the playing field for our various branches and to infuse our library system's delivery of equitable services and contributions to impactful outcomes with real backbone. It would directly support facility upgrades (which are desperately needed in many of the libraries located in impacted communities), staffing, collection development, and operational support. Specifically, the measure could enact the following: funding for across-the-board 56 hour open hours at ***all*** branches, improved facilities, increased collections, additional services, more outreach opportunities, safe spaces for teens to congregate after school, and better wraparound support for families and residents, particularly in underserved communities.

We are undoubtedly experiencing a widening gap between the have's and the have-not's, particularly in the Bay Area. County Librarian McKee's Measure X proposal can ameliorate some of the impacts of that trend. There are so many forces that are beyond the control of local municipalities. ***This is not one of them.*** Measure X provides a direct portal to greater equity and excellent services for ***all*** of our county's residents. The measure is not directly tied to nor a result of our state's unprecedented 2021 budget surplus, but it is certainly part of the larger picture: an opportunity to address and ***redress*** some of the massive disparities—both their causes and effects—in our region's healthcare, education, housing, public safety, economic, and environmental sectors, among others.

In November 2020, Contra Costa County voters passed Measure X to fund essential services including the regional hospital, community health centers, emergency response, safety-net services, early childhood services, and other community services. The County Librarian's request is fully consistent with the purposes of Measure X, especially the following key targets:

- Support crucial safety-net services
- Invest in early childhood services
- Protect vulnerable populations
- Fund other essential services

Our public libraries are the institutions where ideals like equal and free access acquire animus and meaning and where a region's diversity can be truly reflected and enacted. They are one of the most vital spaces of civic involvement and intellectual freedom in a democratic state. But they have increasingly become part of the social safety net for many populations, especially our most vulnerable community members. There is no doubt that we need more vigorous and inclusive community services, and there is no doubt that this funding boost can help make that happen. Measure X funds are explicitly targeted to address these prevailing social issues.

Please endorse our County Librarian's request for Measure X allocation. Thank you for your consideration.

Warmly,



Rachel Rosekind, PhD
Contra Costa County Library District 1 Commissioner

Cc: Supervisor John Gioia

Dear Senator Feinstein,

I am writing to thank Senator Feinstein for co-sponsoring **S. 127, the Build America's Libraries Act**.

As Contra Costa County's District 1 Library Commissioner, I can tell you unequivocally that this bill would be a game changer for the libraries within my purview, for our countywide system, and for libraries and communities in need across the country.

Libraries have always been both the lifeblood and the lifeline of their communities. This statement reflects the long arc of their history as well as their vital role during the pandemic. Librarians provided so many critical services during this emergent time: handing out thousands of free meals, mobile hotspots, and craft kits; delivering books to homebound community members; assisting patrons with unemployment, EBT benefits, and other crucial safety net services—the list goes on and on. They are truly the place where democracy shows the true extent of its promise and potential.

Congress has the opportunity to allocate \$5 billion to assist the nation's libraries to address challenges such as natural disasters, COVID-19, advanced technology, environmental hazards, and accessibility. The Bay Area, Contra Costa County, and my district in particular exhibit stunning disparities in individual and community wealth and influence. Although our county allocates funds equally to each branch, some of them benefit from additional sources of support, e.g., their city government, "friends' groups," and local donors. These cities often have extraordinarily modern, well-equipped, and amply funded libraries. And yet, other libraries are sited in historically impacted and under-resourced communities with fewer funding levers, and still others reside in unincorporated areas (including 2 of the 5 libraries within my district) that have zero access to the same local municipal coffers. This tension—really a tragedy—between the "have's" and the "have not's" is palpable in our region (and beyond). It enacts a divisive social dynamic and corrosive psychological effect on our community members. We stand at a critical junction, where our nation's moral fabric can either be systematically mended or further rended. By prioritizing library infrastructure and bringing more resources to the places and people who need it most, you can help tip the scales in the right direction.

Within the five libraries in my district, there are two that are in dire need of repairs, renovation, expansion, and/or reconstruction. Both of these sites, one in El Cerrito and the other in the unincorporated area of Kensington, have significant infrastructure, accessibility, and design challenges that cannot be addressed via available funding streams, e.g., leaky roofs, faulty or non-existent HVAC systems, non-ADA-compliant bookshelves, lack of study and meeting rooms, etc. We are working in multiple ways at the systemic level to address these needs and inequities. But we need the bold and swift agenda that the Biden administration has the power to enact. And we need it now.

Please raise your voice to ensure that this moment is seized to its fullest potential and to bring our libraries, our librarians, and our community members a future endowed with equity, honor, and hope.

Thank you for your consideration,
Rachel Rosekind, PhD, Contra Costa County Library District 1 Commissioner

Dear Senator Padilla,

I am writing to thank Senator Padilla for co-sponsoring **S. 127, the Build America's Libraries Act**.

As Contra Costa County's District 1 Library Commissioner, I can tell you unequivocally that this bill would be a game changer for the libraries within my purview, for our countywide system, and for libraries and communities in need across the country.

Libraries have always been both the lifeblood and the lifeline of their communities. This statement reflects the long arc of their history as well as their vital role during the pandemic. Librarians provided so many critical services during this emergent time: handing out thousands of free meals, mobile hotspots, and craft kits; delivering books to homebound community members; assisting patrons with unemployment, EBT benefits, and other crucial safety net services—the list goes on and on. They are truly the place where democracy shows the true extent of its promise and potential.

Congress has the opportunity to allocate \$5 billion to assist the nation's libraries to address challenges such as natural disasters, COVID-19, advanced technology, environmental hazards, and accessibility. The Bay Area, Contra Costa County, and my district in particular exhibit stunning disparities in individual and community wealth and influence. Although our county allocates funds equally to each branch, some of them benefit from additional sources of support, e.g., their city government, "friends' groups," and local donors. These cities often have extraordinarily modern, well-equipped, and amply funded libraries. And yet, other libraries are sited in historically impacted and under-resourced communities with fewer funding levers, and still others reside in unincorporated areas (including 2 of the 5 libraries within my district) that have zero access to the same local municipal coffers. This tension—really a tragedy—between the "have's" and the "have not's" is palpable in our region (and beyond). It enacts a divisive social dynamic and corrosive psychological effect on our community members. We stand at a critical junction, where our nation's moral fabric can either be systematically mended or further rended. By prioritizing library infrastructure and bringing more resources to the places and people who need it most, you can help tip the scales in the right direction.

Within the five libraries in my district, there are two that are in dire need of repairs, renovation, expansion, and/or reconstruction. Both of these sites, one in El Cerrito and the other in the unincorporated area of Kensington, have significant infrastructure, accessibility, and design challenges that cannot be addressed via available funding streams, e.g., leaky roofs, faulty or non-existent HVAC systems, non-ADA-compliant bookshelves, lack of study and meeting rooms, etc. We are working in multiple ways at the systemic level to address these needs and inequities. But we need the bold and swift agenda that the Biden administration has the power to enact. And we need it now.

Please raise your voice to ensure that this moment is seized to its fullest potential and to bring our libraries, our librarians, and our community members a future endowed with equity, honor, and hope.

Thank you for your consideration,
Rachel Rosekind, PhD, Contra Costa County Library District 1 Commissioner

Dear Measure X Community Advisory Board:

On behalf of the San Pablo City Council, I am writing to urge you to recommend allocating an appropriate proportion of Measure X funds to provide for an expanded county library budget. This allocation would directly support a countywide increase to 56 hours for **all** branches, facility upgrades (which are desperately needed in many of our county's libraries, particularly those located in impacted communities), staffing, collection development, and operational support.

The County Librarian's request is fully consistent with the purposes of Measure X, especially the following key targets:

- Support crucial safety-net services
- Invest in early childhood services
- Protect vulnerable populations
- Fund other essential services

The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed and exacerbated many of the divides that increasingly define our region. During the yearlong+ closure, our county library staff demonstrated how vital their services are to our community members, particularly those who are under-resourced and overburdened. They handed out free lunches and produce, mobile hotspots, literacy materials, and craft kits; delivered books to homebound community members; conducted robust online programming; assisted patrons with unemployment, EBT benefits, tutoring services, and accessing other crucial safety net services—the list goes on and on. Libraries are truly the place where democracy shows the true extent of its promise and potential. Our investment in *them* reflects the degree of our investment in our egalitarian social and political aspirations.

The Contra Costa County Library's per capita operating income falls woefully short of the median for libraries statewide, and particularly that of other Bay Area county libraries. Our system receives funding equivalent to 1.5% of 1% of property tax for all properties (aside from those in the city of Richmond, which operates its own library system). This amount accounts for just .97% of the county's current budget. Currently, the cost of additional operational hours beyond the county-funded minimum threshold is borne by cities, as is facilities maintenance. While *some* of our county's cities and their libraries' respective friends' groups and foundations can pitch in substantively to fill in the opportunity and equity gaps produced by this scant level of support—in services, programming, open hours, facilities maintenance, etc.—many others simply cannot. This also applies to libraries in unincorporated areas, such as El Sobrante, Kensington (both within District 1), and Bay Point (located in District 5) that do not have a potential city base from which to draw. The resulting picture is wildly disparate. In other words, the current funding model and allocation reflects, contributes to, and even exacerbates our county's inequities. ***We can and we must do better.*** The significant revenue expected from the Measure X initiative (estimated at \$81M/year) has the potential to level the playing field and to infuse our library system's delivery of equitable services and contributions to impactful outcomes with real backbone.

Measure X is an unprecedented opportunity to address and ***redress*** some of the massive disparities—both their causes and effects—in our region's healthcare, education, housing, public safety, economic, and environmental sectors, among others. Libraries are one of the most vital spaces of civic involvement and education, literacy promotion, and intellectual freedom in a democratic state. And they have increasingly become part of the social safety net for many populations, especially our most vulnerable community members. There is no doubt that we need more vigorous and inclusive community services, and there is no doubt that this funding boost can help make that happen. I understand that the library's

ask is but one competing interest in ultimate allocation, but I hope you can see how capably it responds to the core imperatives of the Measure X specifications.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely yours,
Elizabeth Pabon-Alvarado
Mayor, City of San Pablo



Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County

SUPPORTING ALL THE ARTS

Mission

The Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County is dedicated to 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.

MEASURE X
INTRODUCTION

WWW.AC5.ORG



ABOUTFACE US Air Force Dr. Felisa Gafney

FG

Ben Miyaji
Chair At-Large-2



Silvia Ledezma
Vice-Chair District 1



Elizabeth Wood
Senior Commissioner
District 4



Joan D'Onofrio
At-Large 3



10 seats:

- 5 from each Supervisorial Districts
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Y'Anad Burrell
At-Large-1



Beverly Kumar
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Grant Taylor
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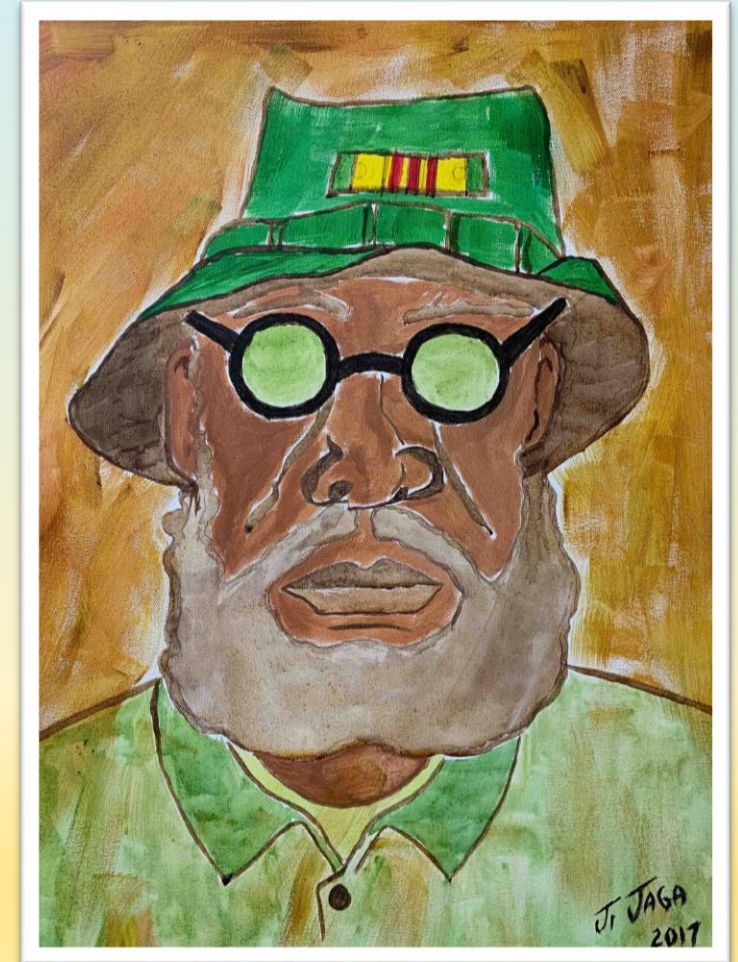


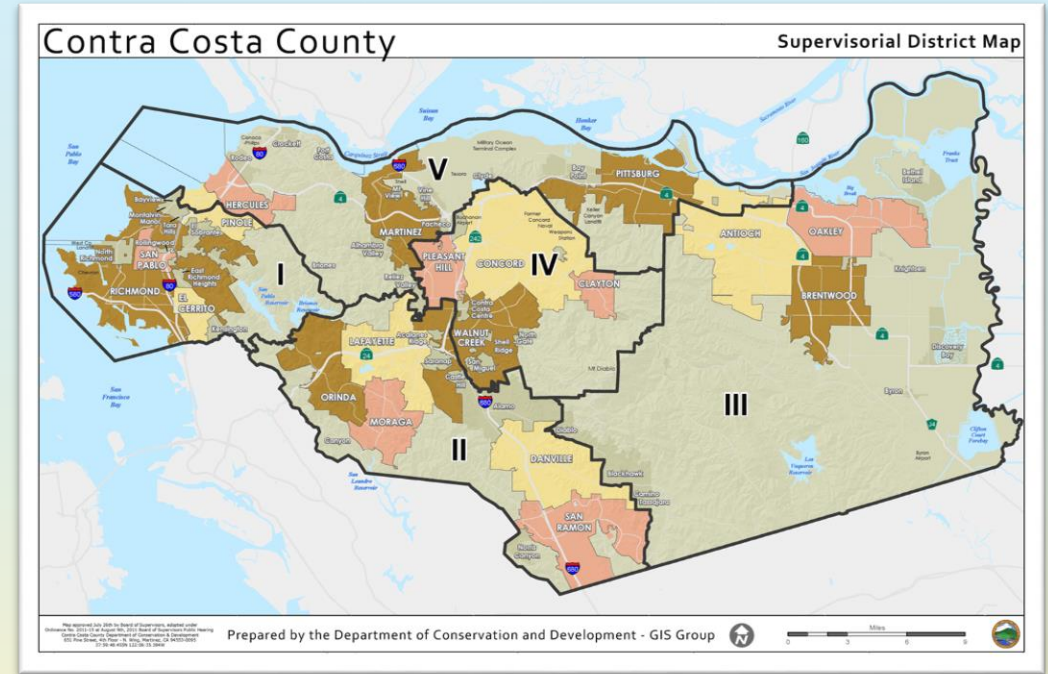


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 2020-21 LACOG Grant
 ABOUTFACE Marines Veteran Dedan Ji Jaga





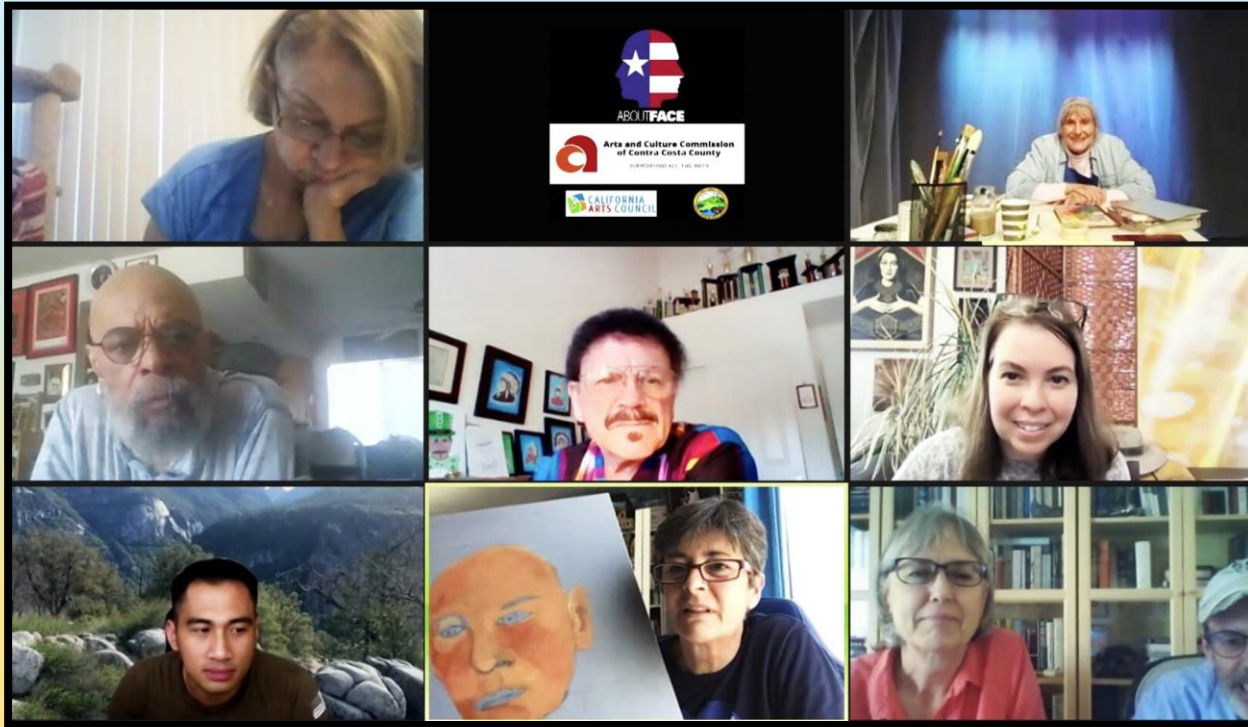
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PREVENTION

Artists are second responders.

Art is free expression to address social issues.



ABOUTFACE Veteran May 2021 Zoom workshop

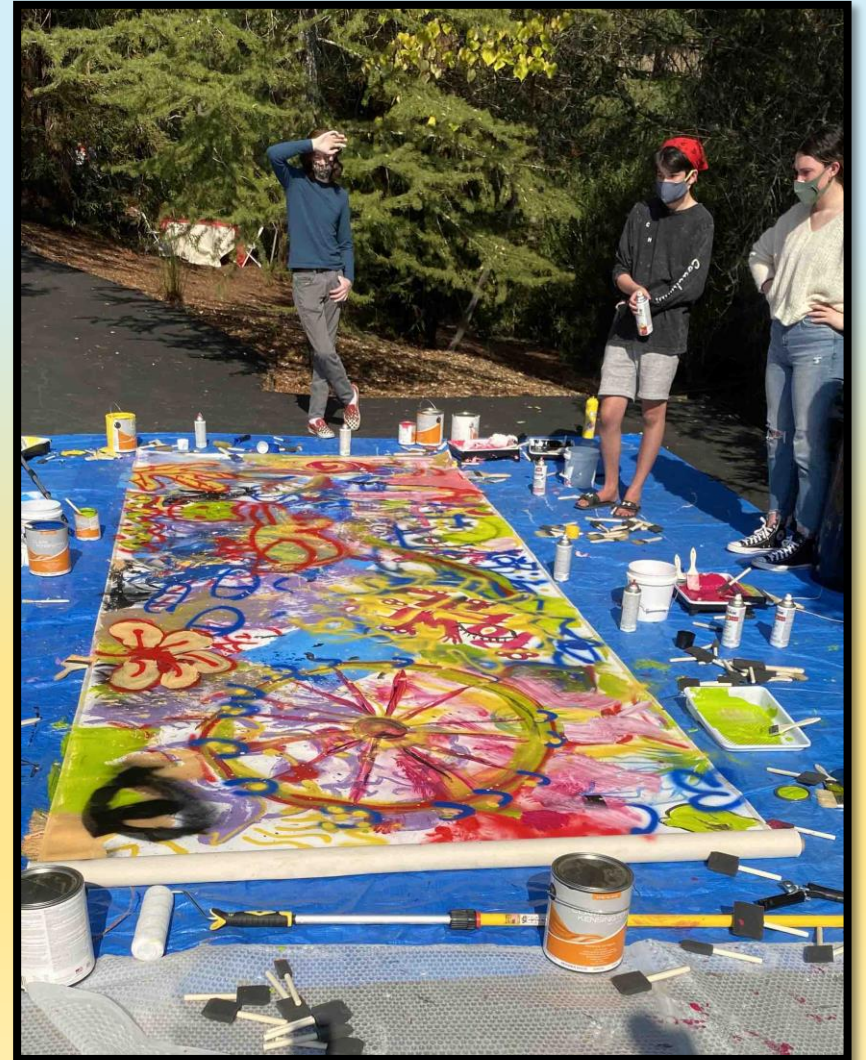
Robin D. López, *Richmond Speaks*, photograph, www.robindlopez.com

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**Art addresses collective grief.
Art uplifts all communities.**

2018 Marsh Creek Detention Facility
Art Project with the Office of the
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California Lawyers for the Arts
*Vice Chair Silvia Ledezma image

Youth Advisor Carolyn Considine's
Project We painting.
*Carolyn Considine image.



DATA

95% of local arts agencies use the arts to address community development issues
(e.g., youth, economic, diversity)



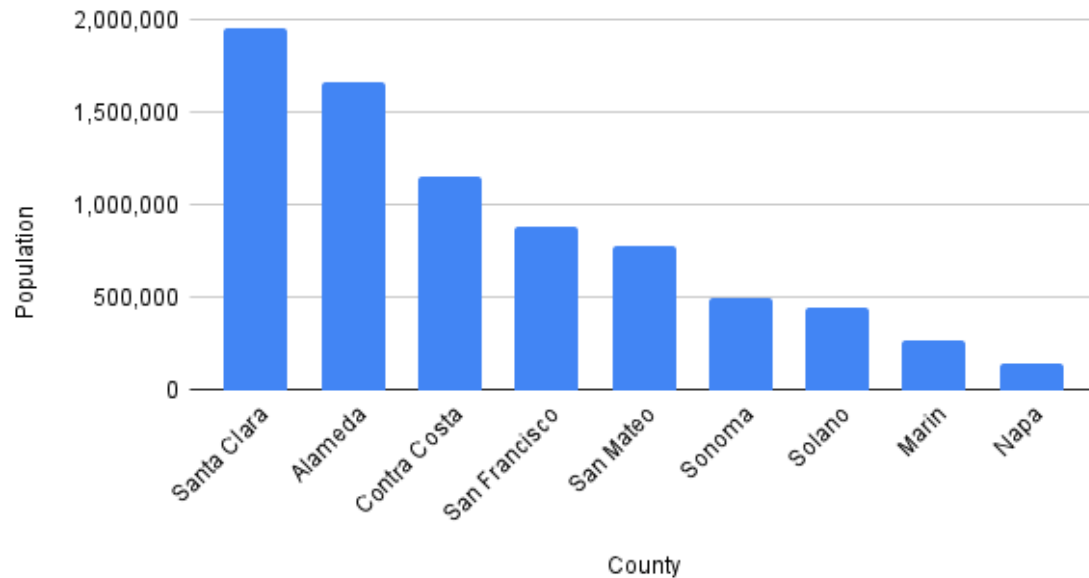
95% ADDRESS COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

@BeAnArtsHero

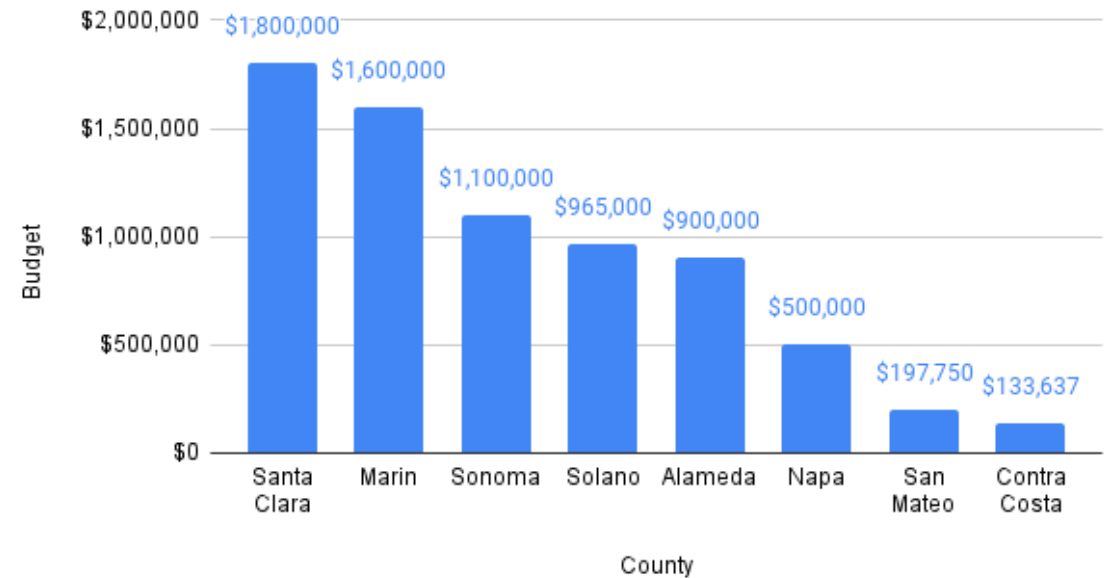
DID YOU KNOW?
**LOW-INCOME
STUDENTS
ENGAGED IN THE
ARTS ARE MORE
THAN TWICE AS
LIKELY TO
GRADUATE
COLLEGE**



Population vs. County



Budget vs. County

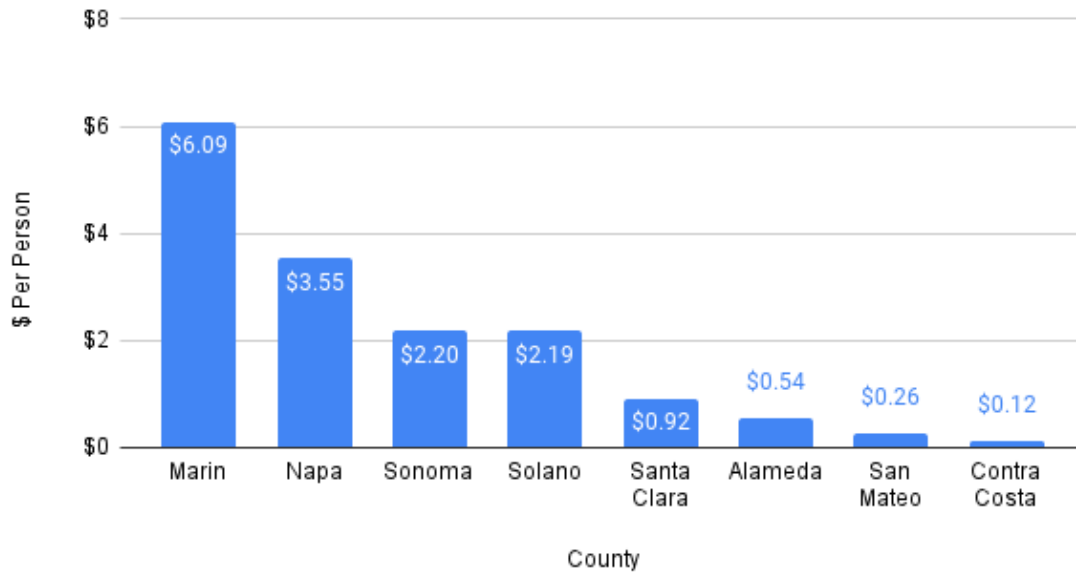


Contra Costa County: 3rd highest population and lowest budget

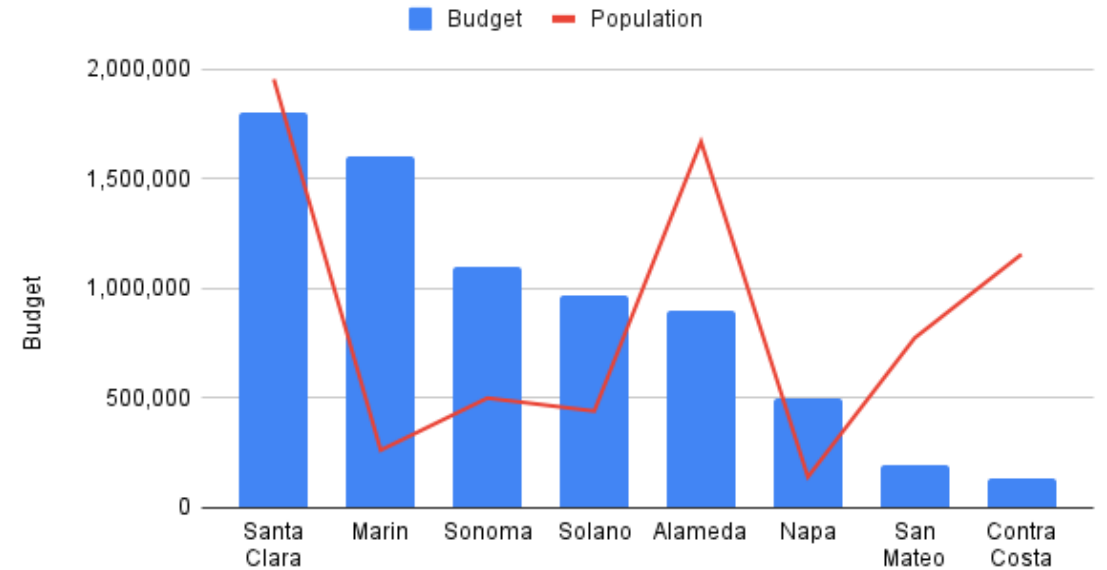
Budget Context: How do we rank?

DATA

Funding Per Person by County



Budget vs. Population



Funding Average Per Person: \$1.04 Contra Costa County: \$.12

Contra Costa County: largest services gap and 0 employees

DATA

California State-Local Partners Snapshot Survey:

Average budget size: **\$519,449**

Average Number of Employees:

Full-time – **2.94**

Part-time – **2.93**

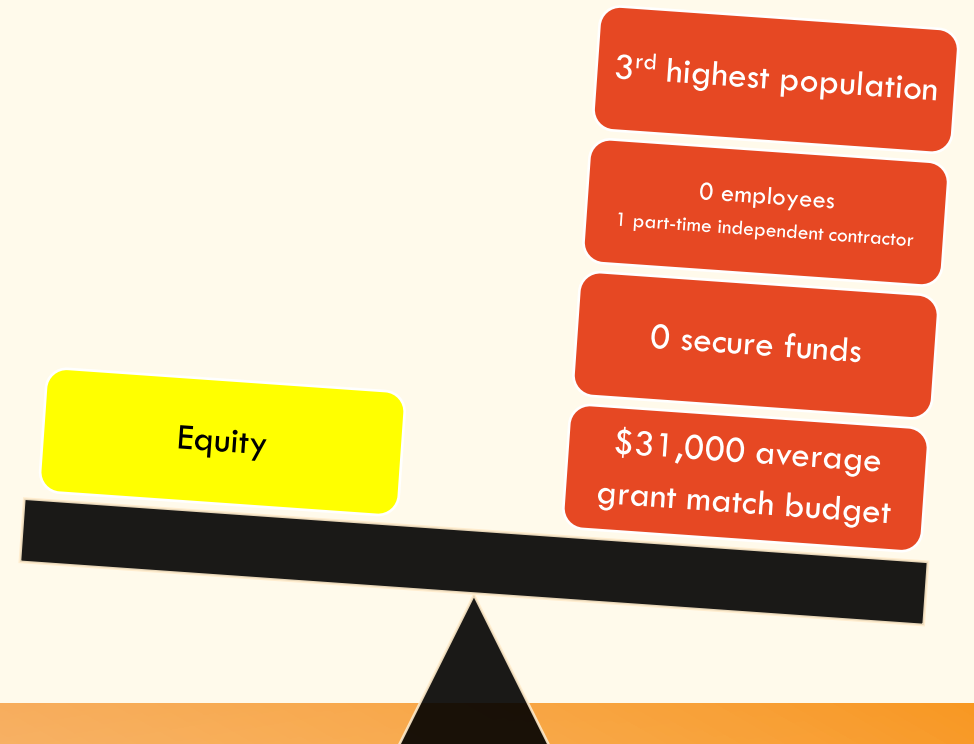
Contractors – **6.92**

*The Arts Commission was established in 1994.

No CCC arts demographic data due to limited budget.

Contra Costa County

Data



TRENDS

California Arts Council

1. No longer sole funding source.
2. Support Commissions with basic secure funding.
3. Look to invest in partnerships.
4. Discontinuing ABOUTFACE grant program.
5. CAC grant funds can't be used for grant matches.
6. Arts Commission budget has close to zero leverage.

Equity

1. Investment reflects values.
2. \$31,000 CCC grant match is inadequate.
3. CCC has a huge diverse artistic population.
4. Disproportionately impacts every community.
5. LACOG grantee feedback:
"The lack of CCC arts investment has created a disconnect between artists, art organizations, and residents."



TRANSFORMATIONAL

District Public Art Program:

Every Bay Area County has a public art program! Let's build Contra Costa County's first public art program!

Community Art Fund:

Up to 5 community art projects a year!

AIRS (Artist-in-Residency in the School):

Pilot program where teaching artists in CCC schools work with students to create an art project.



What bold experiments, big ideas, and innovative approaches to meet key needs?

District Public Art Program

Community Art Fund

AIRS
(Artist-in-Residency in the School) pilot program

TRANSFORMATIONAL



Arts Connection:

Connect artists and art organizations for quarterly meetings for advocacy, opportunities, and data collection.

Youth Advisor in each District:

Expands equity and opportunity to youth in each District!

Build Structures:

Community creates policy for new and signature programs based on equity. All other Bay Area Counties have Arts and Culture in their General Plans!



Arts
Connection

**What bold
experiments, big
ideas, and
innovative
approaches to
meet key
needs?**

Youth Advisor
in each District

Build
Structures

NUMBERS MATTER!

\$1.04

average
arts funding
per person

$\$1.04 \times$
1,155,879
CCC residents
\$1,205,601

Bay Area
Counties

CCC ask:
\$625,000

\$.54 per resident



**Arts and Culture Commission
of Contra Costa County**

SUPPORTING ALL THE ARTS

\$625,000 INVESTMENT

Support Team: \$305,000

Managing Director
Program Coordinator
Communication and Marketing

Build Structures: \$45,000

Facilitator works with CCC residents to create policy for District Public Art Programs, Community Projects Fund, and Signature Programs based on equity!

Signature Programs: \$100,000

Arts and Culture Prospectus of Contra Costa County
ABOUTFACE
Poetry Out Loud
Youth Advisor
Jump StArts CAC grant
Art Recognition Awards
Art Passages

District Public Art Program: \$100,000

(\$20,000 each District)

New Programs: \$50,000

Youth Advisor (each District)
AIRS (Artist-in-Residency in the Schools) pilot program
Arts Connection (CCC artists/art organizations quarterly meetings for advocacy, opportunities, and data collection)

Community Art Fund: \$25,000 up to 5 projects a year!

**TOP PRIORITY:
SECURE STAFF TO
DELIVER SERVICES!**

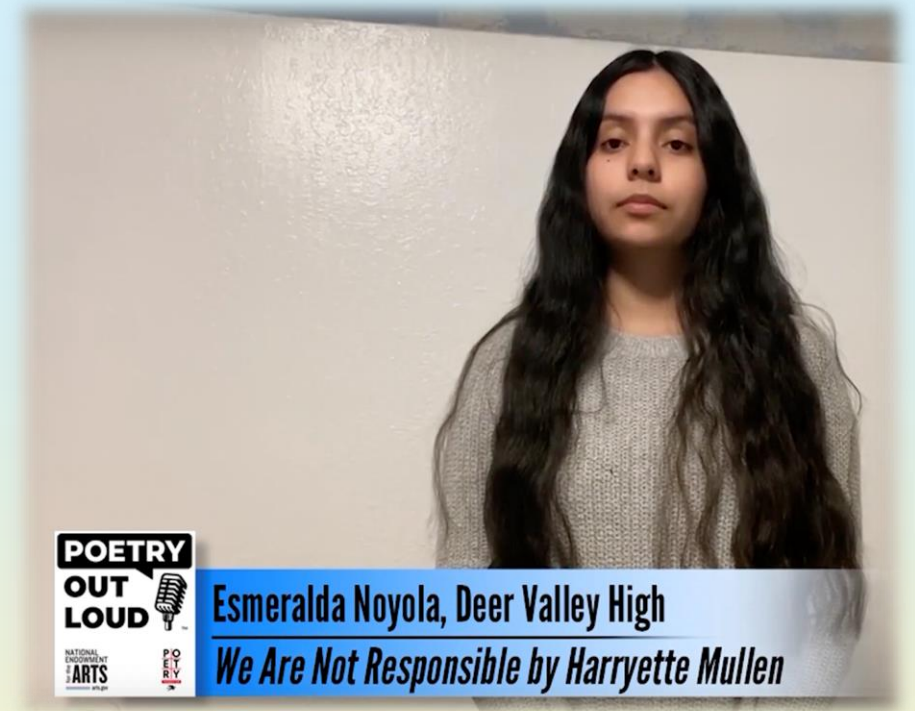
***Let's build an arts foundation in CCC!
It will take time
and dedicated staff to do so!***



ABOUTFACE Veteran Workshop 2018

5 REASONS \$625,000

1. Arts is an equity & economic investment.
2. A stable funding source secures programs.
3. Follows best practices of regional County partners: average per person \$1.04 and our ask \$.54
4. Acknowledges community needs through new programs.
5. Art speaks to the human experience and uplifts all communities!



Thank You MXCAB!



Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County

SUPPORTING ALL THE ARTS

Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County 1025 Escobar Street, 4th Floor, Martinez, CA 94553
(925) 646-2278 staff@ac5.cccounty.us www.ac5.org

Dear Measure X Community Advisory Board,

The Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County is grateful for this opportunity!

We're very proud of our signature programs that offer services to all Contra Costa County residents including *ABOUTFACE*, *Poetry Out Loud*, *Arts and Culture Prospectus*, *Youth Advisor*, *Art Passages*, *Arts Cafe*, *Arts Recognition Awards*, and *Arts Directory & Calendar*.

We stand at a pivotal moment with a \$31,000 average annual grant match budget. In order to be competitive in grant applications and stabilize community services, a secure funding source follows best practices of all Bay Area counties and throughout California.

The time is now to build an arts foundation and legacy for future generations based on equity. Transformational proposed programs include a *District Public Art Program*, *Community Art Fund*, *Youth Advisor* in each District, *Artist-in-Residency in the School* pilot program, *Arts Connection*, and *Build Structures* initiative.

In this packet, please read the heartfelt community letters and review important data along with learning more about our signature programs and new program ideas.

We're requesting a below average ask to be extraordinary!

Let's uplift and support Contra Costa County's incredible creative talent!

With your support, we can do this!

Sincerely,

Jenny Balisle
Managing Director
Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County

Presenters

County:

1. Ben Miyaji: Chair, Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County
2. Jenny Balisle: Managing Director, Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County

Community:

1. Marva Reed: Richmond artist and *Art of the African Diaspora* Curator
2. Dedan Ji Jaja: *ABOUTFACE* Veteran artist
3. Silvia Ledezma: Vice Chair, Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County and *2018 Marsh Creek Detention Facility Art Project*
4. *Local Arts and Cultural Organizations Grantee* RYSE: Sheila McKinney (Richmond Youth Poet Laureate & RYSE member), CieraJevae Gordon (former Richmond Poet Laureate and RYSE's Media, Arts, & Culture Manager), and Tara Malik (RYSE Media, Arts, & Culture Director)
5. Keertana Srekkumar: youth artist, advocate, student, San Ramon Youth Art Committee President/Founder
6. Tony Tamayo: artist, advocate, *Poetry Out Loud* and *ABOUTFACE* Technical Assistant
7. Naina Shastri: Founder/Artistic Director at Ushanjali School of Dance, and San Ramon Social Justice Collective
8. Donté Clark: poet and *Poetry Out Loud* Coordinator

Community Letters

Martha C. Schraer, ABOUTFACE Veteran
John D. Archimede, ABOUTFACE Veteran
Jock Eggers, ABOUTFACE participant
Carolyn Considine, Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County Youth Advisor
Richmond Art Center, José R. Rivera Executive Director and Amy Spencer Exhibitions Director
Richmond Museum of History & Culture, Melinda McCrary, Museum Executive Director
Patrick Martin, Teaching, Learning and Leading Visual and Performing Arts Coordinator, West Contra Costa Unified School District
Elaine Cortez Schroth, CEO and President, Visit Concord
Anna Smith, Executive Director, The Quinan Street Project
Katie Pool, The Quinan Street Project Advisory Board member
Leah McKibbin, The Quinan Street Project Advisory Board member
Catherine Hensiek, President, Concord Art Association
Michele Seville, former Arts & Culture Manager, City of Richmond
Victoria Bianco, ABOUTFACE Teaching Artist and Coordinator
Chair At-Large 2 Commissioner Ben Miyaji
Senior Commissioner District 4 Elizabeth Wood
District 2 Commissioner Beverly Kumar
At-Large 3 Commissioner Joan D'Onofrio
Linda Kalin, Richmond resident and artist
Jordan Fridie, Contra Costa County youth artist
Jose Arandia, Bay Area podcast host, artist, and performer
Brennan DeFrisco, poet, Poetry Out Loud Student Coach and Assistant Coordinator
Flo Wiley, Chair, Richmond Arts and Culture Commission and Operations Manager, Snap Judgment



**Arts and Culture Commission
of Contra Costa County**

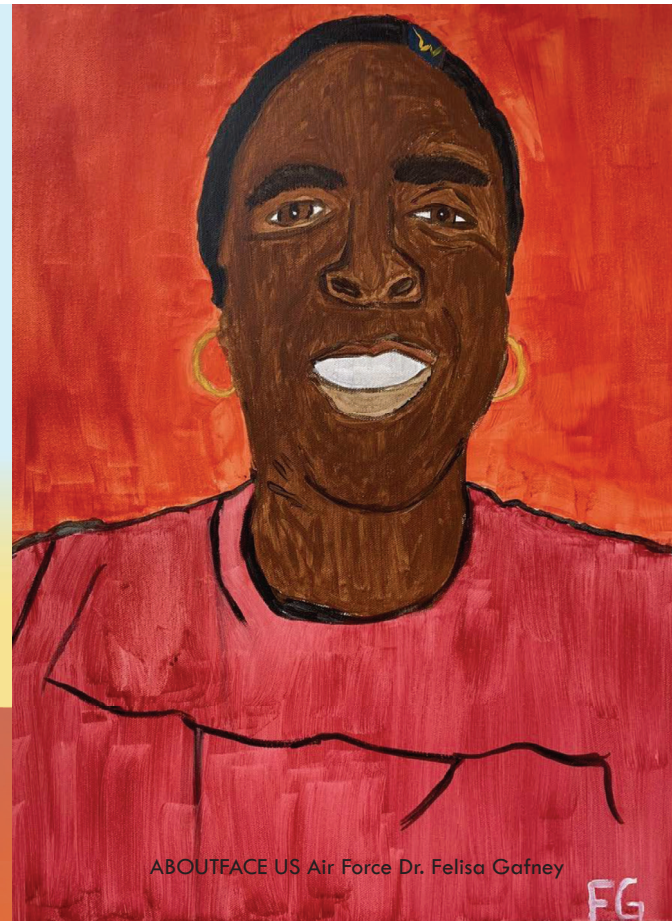
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MEASURE X
INTRODUCTION

WWW.AC5.ORG



ABOUTFACE US Air Force Dr. Felisa Gafney

Land Acknowledgement

The Arts and Culture Commission would like to take a moment to acknowledge the land and indigenous peoples of Contra Costa County.

We collectively acknowledge that Contra Costa County resides on the traditional, ancestral, and contemporary lands of indigenous people. Contra Costa County resides on land that was cared for and called home by the Bay Miwok and Ohlone people, who shared their oral traditions in the Utian / Penutian language.

Local tribes from our county include, but are not limited to, the Saclan, Tatcan, Chupchan, Julpun, Volvon, Souyen, and other native peoples from time immemorial.

This land holds great historical, spiritual, and personal significance to its past, present, and future stewards, the native nations and peoples of this region. We honor and continue their tradition of cultural and artistic expression in Contra Costa County through our engagement with the arts today.

10 seats:

- 5 from each Supervisorial Districts
- 4 At-Large
- 1 Alternate

WWW.AC5.ORG

Ben Miyaji
Commission Chair: At-Large-2

Ardent supporter and patron of the arts. He is the current chair of the Palo Alto Public Art Commission and has served on that commission for 8 years.



Silvia Ledezma
Commission Vice-Chair: District 1

An international artist, photographer, and activist who was born in San Francisco, California, lived and traveled throughout Mexico.



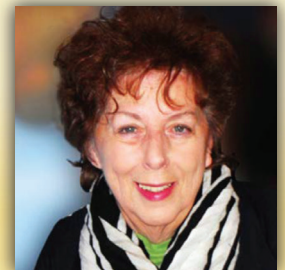
Elizabeth Wood
Senior Commissioner: District 4

Retired from Chevron Corporation after 30+ years and returned as a part-time contract employee working on several marketing projects.



Joan D'Onofrio
At-Large 3

Founder of the Michelangelo D'Onofrio Arts Foundation, and currently employed by H&R Block.



Y'Anad Burrell
At-Large-1

Founder/CEO of Glass House Communications (GHC), a boutique public relations agency, with a practice area in working with art and culture organizations throughout the Bay Area.



Beverly Kumar
District 2

Served as an Art Commissioner for the Town of Danville. With a background in the performing arts, education and degree in communication, Beverly is an advocate for arts education and champion of young artists.



Lanita Mims
At-Large-4

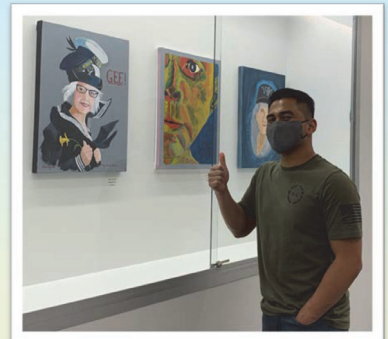
Small business owner specializing in music and entertainment.



Grant Taylor
District 3

Singer, songwriter, producer, vocal coach, and actor.





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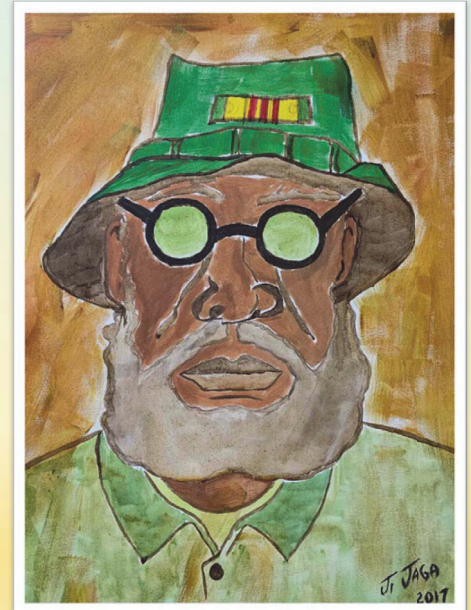


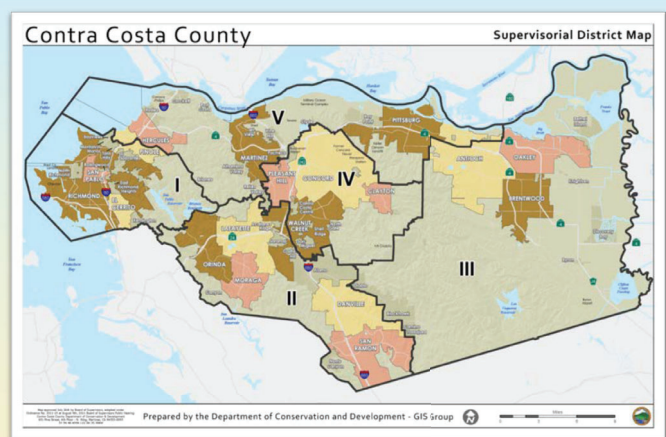


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PREVENTION

Artists are second responders.

Art is free expression to address social issues.



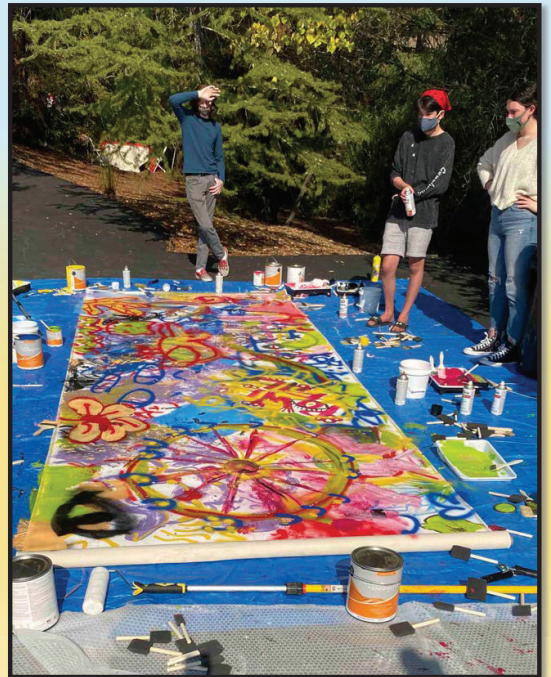
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*Vice Chair Silvia Ledezma image

Youth Advisor Carolyn Considine's
Project We painting.
*Carolyn Considine image.



DATA

82%

of Americans believe
arts & culture are
important to local
businesses and the
economy

87%

of Americans believe arts
& culture are important
to quality of life

DATA



Local vs. Nonlocal Arts Audience Spending

Local Audience Spending // **\$23.44**



Nonlocal Audience Spending // **\$47.57**



Average Per Person Per Event

Audience Expenditures: \$31.47



The average audience expenditure **does not** include cost of admission.

DATA

95% of local arts agencies use the arts to address community development issues
(e.g., youth, economic, diversity)



95% ADDRESS COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT ISSUES

@BeAnArtsHero

**91% OF
AMERICANS
BELIEVE THAT
THE ARTS ARE
VITAL TO
PROVIDING A
WELL-ROUNDED
EDUCATION.**



DATA

@BeAnArtsHero

DID YOU KNOW?

**MUSIC TRAINING
INCREASES
TODDLER IQ**

IN EARLY CHILDHOOD, THE ARTS
HAVE BEEN SHOWN TO IMPROVE IQ
AND SPATIAL COGNITION IN 3-5
YEAR OLDS.



@BeAnArtsHero

DID YOU KNOW?


**STUDENTS WHO
TAKE FOUR YEARS
OF ARTS AND
MUSIC CLASSES
SCORE AN
AVERAGE OF OVER
150 POINTS HIGHER
ON THE SAT.**



@BeAnArtsHero

DID YOU KNOW?

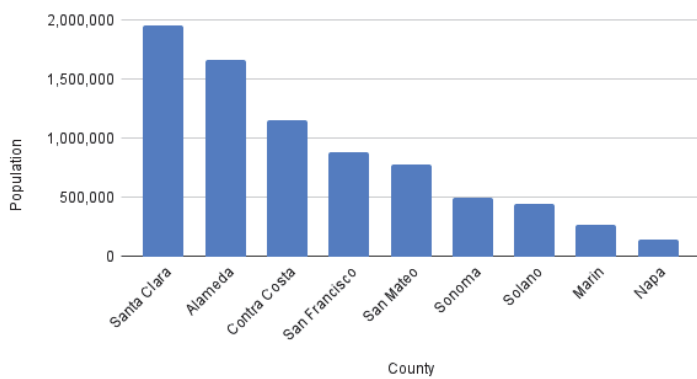
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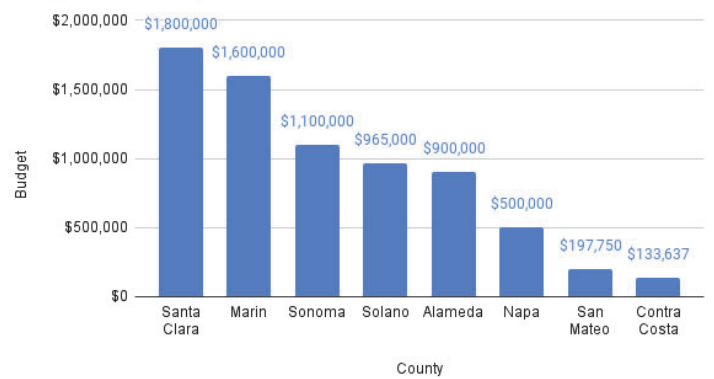
Budget Context: How do we rank?

DATA

Population vs. County



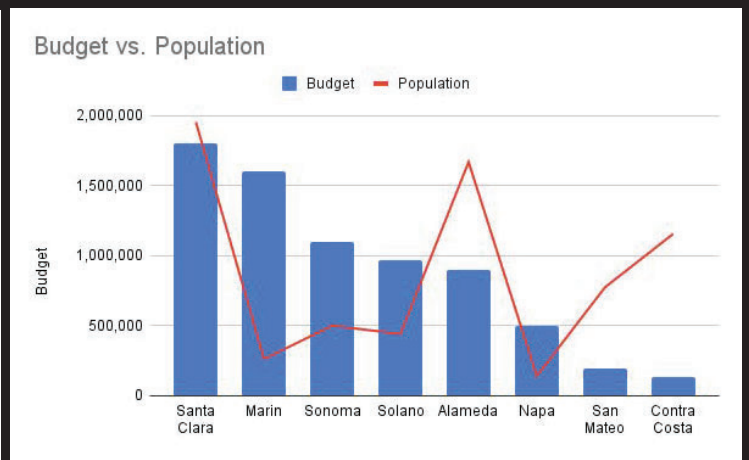
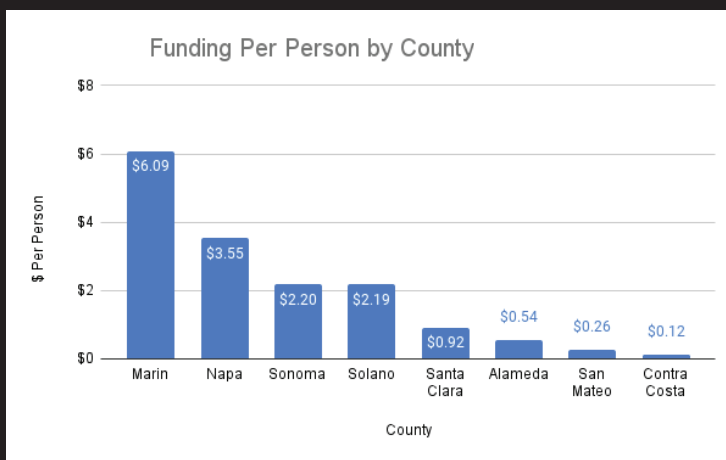
Budget vs. County



Contra Costa County: 3rd highest population and lowest budget

Budget Context: How do we rank?

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Contra Costa County: largest services gap and 0 employees

DATA

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Average Number of Employees:

Full-time – **2.94**

Part-time – **2.93**

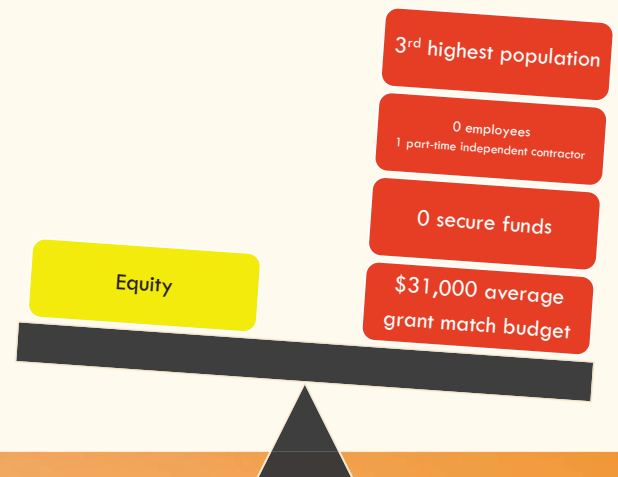
Contractors – **6.92**

*The Arts Commission was established in 1994.

No CCC arts demographic data due to limited budget.

Contra Costa County

Data



TRENDS

California Arts Council

1. No longer sole funding source.
2. Support Commissions with basic secure funding.
3. Look to invest in partnerships.
4. Discontinuing ABOUTFACE grant program.
5. CAC grant funds can't be used for grant matches.
6. Arts Commission budget has close to zero leverage.

Equity

1. Investment reflects values.
2. \$31,000 CCC grant match is inadequate.
3. CCC has a huge diverse artistic population.
4. Disproportionately impacts every community.
5. LACOG grantee feedback:
"The lack of CCC arts investment has created a disconnect between artists, art organizations, and residents."



TRANSFORMATIONAL

District Public Art Program:

Every Bay Area County has a public art program! Let's build Contra Costa County's first public art program!

Community Art Fund:

Up to 5 community art projects a year!

AIRS (Artist-in-Residency in the School):

Pilot program where teaching artists in CCC schools work with students to create an art project.



Marva Reed www.instagram.com/marvaric

What bold experiments, big ideas, and innovative approaches to meet key needs?

District Public Art Program

Community Art Fund

AIRS
(Artist-in-Residency in the School) pilot program

TRANSFORMATIONAL



Arts Connection:

Connect artists and art organizations for quarterly meetings for advocacy, opportunities, and data collection.

Youth Advisor in each District:

Expands equity and opportunity to youth in each District!

Build Structures:

Community creates policy for new and signature programs based on equity. All other Bay Area Counties have Arts and Culture in their General Plans!

Keertana Sreekumar www.sryouthartcommittee.org



NUMBERS MATTER!

\$1.04

average
arts funding
per person

$\$1.04 \times$
1,155,879
CCC residents
\$1,205,601

Bay Area
Counties

CCC ask:
\$625,000

\$.54 per resident



**Arts and Culture Commission
of Contra Costa County**

SUPPORTING ALL THE ARTS

\$625,000 INVESTMENT

Support Team: \$305,000

Managing Director
Program Coordinator
Communication and Marketing

Build Structures: \$45,000

Facilitator works with CCC residents to create policy for District Public Art Programs, Community Projects Fund, and Signature Programs based on equity!

Signature Programs: \$100,000

Arts and Culture Prospectus of Contra Costa County
ABOUTFACE
Poetry Out Loud
Youth Advisor
Jump StArts CAC grant
Art Recognition Awards
Art Passages

District Public Art Program: \$100,000

(\$20,000 each District)

New Programs: \$50,000

Youth Advisor (each District)
AIRS (Artist-in-Residency in the Schools) pilot program
Arts Connection (CCC artists/art organizations quarterly meetings for advocacy, opportunities, and data collection)

Community Art Fund: \$25,000 up to 5 projects a year!

TOP PRIORITY: SECURE STAFF TO DELIVER SERVICES!

*Let's build an arts foundation in CCC!
It will take time
and dedicated staff to do so!*



ABOUTFACE Veteran Workshop 2018

5 REASONS \$625,000

1. Arts is an equity & economic investment.
2. A stable funding source secures programs.
3. Follows best practices of regional County partners: average per person \$1.04 and our ask \$.54
4. Acknowledges community needs through new programs.
5. Art speaks to the human experience and uplifts all communities!



We can do this together!



**Arts and Culture Commission
of Contra Costa County**

SUPPORTING ALL THE ARTS

WWW.AC5.ORG



***Thank You
MXCAB!***

July 21, 2021

The Measure X Community Advisory Board

Dear Board Members and Neighbors:

I am a 3rd-generation Navy veteran and a past participant in the ABOUTFACE art program. I am writing to support funding for the Arts in Contra Costa County.

The Vietnam War ended six months before I enlisted and the majority of Americans now are too young – or too old – to remember it clearly. But the Americans who saw the horrors of that war will always remember it.

Other veterans -- those who served in peacetime doing lonely, dangerous jobs in lonely, dangerous places -- remember their struggles too. As do the Gold Star parents who watched their child leave for a more recent war, then return in a flag-draped casket.

These veterans and family members, and others, joined the ABOUTFACE art program to share and heal from their service to our nation. They were welcomed in solidarity by fellow veterans who also remember, understand, and care.

Some of these veterans have spent decades serving other veterans and their families. Another teaches art to our county's children. Others are raising the grandchild their fallen veteran left behind. Another enriches his community with his music. And one raises money for the county's homeless population – many of whom are also veterans. All of them served their nation and are now serving Contra Costa County. All of them are integral to the fabric of their neighborhoods.

Can Contra Costa find two cents per resident to continue this program for them? Can we find the funds to help new veterans seeking healing through art and community? Can we let our veterans know that we, too, remember their sacrifice? I hope we can.

Veterans are not, of course, the only people to suffer trauma or to benefit from community arts programs. For just fifty-four cents per resident, the benefits enjoyed by ABOUTFACE students in years past can enrich the lives of young Contra Costans in their formative years and the lives of all who live within our borders.

I respectfully urge you to support our veterans and our community by funding the arts in Contra Costa. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully Yours,
Martha C. Schraer
3241 Golden Rain Road, #1
Walnut Creek, CA 94595

DATE: JULY 20, 2021

TO: THE COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD
FROM: JOHN D. ARCHIMEDE
U.S. ARMY RETIRED

RE: MEASURE X

DEAR COMMUNITY ADVISEY BOARD MEMBERS,

MY NAME IS JOHN D. ARCHIMEDE AND I AM A RETIRED VETERAN ON A FIXED INCOME.
I SERVED IN THE U.S. ARMY IN GERMANY AND RECEIVED AN HONORABLE DISCHARGE.

I AM WRITING YOU THIS LETTER TO LET YOU KNOW HOW I FEEL ABOUT MY EXPERIENCE WITH
THE ABOUT FACE ART PROGRAM.

THIS PROGRAM WAS INSTRUCTED VERY PROFESSIONALLY FROM THE WONDERUL INSTRUCTORS.
I THOROUGHLY ENJOYED THE TIME SPENT PAINTING AND CREATING NEW IDEAS WITH THE
INSTRUCTOR'S HELP.

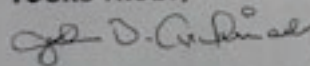
THIS PROGRAM KEPT ME ALIVE AND VIGOROUSLY CREATING PAINTINGS TO HELP KEEP MY SANITY.
THE TIME I SPENT WITH THE INSTRUCTORS HELPED ME PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY.

I DON'T KNOW HOW I COULD HAVE SURVIVED WITHOUT THIS PROGRAM BECAUSE OF THE IDLE HOURS
I SPEND LIVING ALONE.

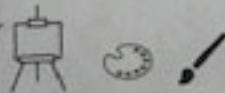
PLEASE KEEP THE ABOUT FACE PROGRAM IN TACT AND I AM LOOKING FORWARD TO ENJOYING
NEW VENTURES WITH THIS WONDERFUL PROGRAM.

I AM WRITING THIS LETTER IN ALL CAPS BECAUSE THAT IS HOW IMPORTANT THIS PROGRAM IS TO ME.

YOURS TRULY,



JOHN D. ARCHIMEDE



July 21, 2021

The Measure X Community Advisory Board

Dear Board Members and Neighbors:

I am a decades-long taxpayer in our county as well as a citizen participant, with my veteran wife, in the ABOUTFACE art program. I am writing to support funding for the Arts in Contra Costa County.

We citizens are responsible for sending our men and women to war knowing all the time that "War is Hell." We also know that the trauma to our nation's veterans is not just physical, but is psychological as well.

Veterans and family members, and others, join the ABOUTFACE art program to support, share and help each other heal from the consequences of their service and sacrifice to our nation. We come together seeking self-compassion and a better understanding of our experiences and memories.

Some veterans have spent decades serving our community as well as other veterans and their families. One teaches art to our county's children. Others are raising the grandchild their fallen veteran left behind. Another enriches his community with his music. And one raises money for the county's homeless population – many of whom are also veterans. All of them served their nation and are now serving Contra Costa County. All of them are integral to the fabric of their neighborhoods and of our county.

Can Contra Costa find two cents per resident to continue this program for them? Can we find the funds to help new veterans seeking healing through art and community? Can we let our veterans know that we, too, remember their sacrifice? We can! And we are all responsible for doing so!

Veterans are not, of course, the only people to benefit from community arts programs. For just fifty-four cents per resident, the benefits enjoyed by ABOUTFACE students in years past can enrich the lives of all Contra Costans, be they in their youth or adulthood. Art betters the lives of all who live within our county borders at a strikingly minimal cost .

I respectfully urge you to support our veterans and our community by funding the arts in Contra Costa. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully Yours,

Jock Eggers

3241 Golden Rain Road, #1

Walnut Creek, CA 94595

Carolyn Considine
AC5 Youth Advisor
July 21, 2021
Measure X Letter of Support

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Carolyn Considine, and I am the first-ever Youth Advisor to the Contra Costa County Arts and Culture Commission (AC5). After applying for a full-time board position in 2019, AC5 asked if I was interested in volunteering with them to lead important art-related efforts for the youth of our county. Thanks to the incredible efforts of Y'Anad Burrell, Jenny Balisle, and Beverly Kumar, a formal Youth Advisor position was later established, and I was then voted into this exciting new role. I am eternally grateful for this position because it enabled me to expand my overall knowledge of art while also becoming closer to our wonderful community.

I was immediately drawn to the written mission of AC5, specifically the section about how they “preserve, celebrate, and share the arts and culture of the many diverse ethnic groups who live in Contra Costa County.” I am amazed that AC5, through its impressive leadership and talented board members, has delivered on that vital mission in so many wonderful ways. From the youth perspective, I have worked closely with AC5 to launch a series of new art programs designed to reach a broader audience and help convey important messages tied to inclusion and social justice (please see attached page for a summary of this work). This work brought together youth from around the community both in-person and virtually, reached countless others through school partnerships, and was even featured in local newspapers and San Francisco evening news. Given there was NO budget for youth art, we needed to become innovative in our approach and rely on the kind donations of others. That said, there is no guarantee that people will graciously provide these donations to AC5 in the future.

I strongly encourage a more significant overall budget for AC5 that includes a line item for youth arts. There is no question that AC5 could enhance its overall strong footprint in our community if it received the necessary funding that other organizations of similar purposes receive. To date, there is not enough funding to continue the youth art that we collectively started over the last two years, let alone **EXPAND** the program to add more Youth Advisors. AC5 plays a critical role in our county and should be financed in a way that will allow it to continue providing work that is central to its mission. I know that new funding would make a massive difference to our commission, but more importantly, to the residents in our county.

I have included a summary of the youth programs that we successfully launched over the last two years, plus links to the summary of media coverage from these efforts. I appreciate your consideration and thank you so much for allowing me to share my perspective on this topic.

Best regards,
Carolyn Considine

AC5 Youth Program Summary (2020-2021)

Justice Mural Program: Opportunity for high school students in our country to create murals that represent their authentic views of social justice. These banners will be made at multiple schools across the county and then travel from school to school so that student voices can be shared on this topic. Our first school to launch the Justice Mural program was Campolindo (in June). It was highlighted in the Campolindo newspaper and the Vice Principal sent out a communication to the entire school about the program with this quote:

"Projects such as this are important because they elevate and empower student voices showing solidarity and support. Our work as a school is to ensure our actions support the message conveyed in this project. As a school community, we have come together to create change. The road is long and the journey is ongoing, but together we can accomplish greatness."

<http://www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1508/print/Justice-Murals-promote-social-justice-from-a-students-perspective.html>

Project We: A collaborative art effort with local youth artists right before the divisive 2020 Presidential election. This program was a way for AC5 to bring youth together--no matter their background--to collaborate and demonstrate that anything can be done by this generation when we utilize a "we not me" mentality. "Project We" was highlighted both in local print and KCBS nightly news (see link below)

<https://youtu.be/qjhewDfnTV4> and

<https://drive.google.com/drive/u/3/folders/1UrFH4uUXue7V0l10IBGafRD2A0QBvBjM>

Virtual High School Art Gallery: When schools transitioned to distance learning in spring 2020, many art students no longer had a place to display their work as all art exhibitions were canceled. In response, we organized a virtual AC5 Arts Gallery that showcased work from over 100 high school students, spanning 27 different high schools in Contra Costa County.

<https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/5701/Arts-Caf>

In-person art panel at Jennifer Perlmutter Gallery & Facebook Live Art Panels: Right before the start of Covid, AC5 planned and moderated an Arts Cafe Contra Costa County high school art panel to promote the work of youth art. During the middle of COVID, we turned this panel into a Facebook Live event that received over **2,100 views** and was reposted by the California Arts Council on their Facebook account. During the darker times of Covid, the discussion of art was hopeful to viewers in our community.

<https://www.facebook.com/artsculturecommission/photos/a.817040161794292/1495483937283241/> and <https://www.facebook.com/artsculturecommission/videos/3238109646273458>

Art of Resistance: We partnered with the county education director, who was curating a youth art exhibit in the county offices in Martinez. Utilizing the work from our Virtual High School Art Gallery, we jointly selected pieces of art that reflected this critical theme, worked with the artists for their approval, and facilitated the delivery of the art to be part of the Art of Resistance exhibition. These youth artists now have their work included as part of a physical exhibit!

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1tv0hkfhNJqkEH67oTBY1QqSHhyAS2ekI?usp=sharing>

Measure X Community Advisory Board
Board of Supervisors, Contra Costa County

July 20, 2021

RE: Support for Measure X Proposal

To the Measure X Community Advisory Board,

We are writing this letter to express our wholehearted support for the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa's request for funding from Measure X.

As a recent LACOG grantee we know firsthand how impactful support for the arts can be at a County level. In 2020, with a \$5,000 grant we were able to pay teaching artist fees and offer scholarships to low income Richmond-residents for 15 online classes and workshops. During the covid-19 pandemic online art classes provided inclusive spaces for folks with limited access to the arts to connect, create and feel centered together.

We are thrilled that the Arts Commission's Measure X proposal includes a Community Art Fund to continue supporting arts projects locally. The other initiatives in the Arts Commission's proposal are equally exciting; stellar public art, opportunities for leadership development in the arts, support for artists and organizations to connect and learn from each other. We say, "Yes!"

The arts in Contra Costa County have been underfunded for too long. Measure X offers an important opportunity to build groundwork for ensuring a vital presence for the arts in Contra Costa County.

Sincerely,



José R. Rivera
Executive Director



Amy Spencer
Exhibitions Director

About Richmond Art Center: Richmond Art Center has been sharing art and creating with community since 1936. Our programs encompass classes, exhibitions and events at our facility in downtown Richmond, as well as off-site activities that bring free, high-quality art making experiences to WCCUSD schools and community partners.



*Preserving the diverse heritage
of the Greater Richmond
Community*

Executive Board

Lynn Maack, President
John Ziesenhenn, Vice President
Karen Buchanan, Secretary
Vinay Pimplé, Treasurer

Board of Directors

Rich Chivers
Steve Gilford
Demnlus Johnson III
Rebecca Riley
Jeff Wright

Museum Executive Director

Melinda McCrary

Ship Operations Executive Committee

Kim Abbott, Chief

www.richmondmuseum.org
info@richmondmuseum.org
P.O. Box 1267, Richmond, CA 94802

> Visit the **Richmond Museum of
History and Culture**

400 Nevin Ave, Richmond, California
Tel: (510) 235-7387

> Visit the **SS Red Oak Victory**

1337 Canal Blvd., Richmond, California
Tel: (510) 237-2933

The Richmond Museum Association
is a 501(c)(3) organization
Tax ID 94-6095083

July 22, 2021

Dear Measure X Community Advisory Board,

The Richmond Museum of History and Culture supports the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa's request for funding from Measure X!

The RMA was established as a history room in the basement of the City of Richmond's historic Carnegie Library. The building became a branch library in 1949 after World War II dramatically changed the demography of Richmond, and then a children's library in the 1960s. In the early 1980s, the Carnegie Library underwent an extensive renovation in order to convert the building into a space that was suitable for a local museum.

The Museum has celebrated a variety of accomplishments in recent years. The Know Your Community series of exhibits and programs has explored topics such as Richmond's Laotian community, the Black Panther Party, and the Jewish experience in Richmond. The Museum has made significant progress to renovate the permanent gallery including drawing up architectural plans and creating an interactive exhibit about the Ohlone language. Our most significant accomplishment, however, is restoring the Richmond Industrial City mural by Victor Arnautoff, the only piece by this artist in the East Bay. The mural was considered lost until the museum staff located it and raised \$50,000 for the treatment necessary to hang it in the permanent gallery.

The arts in Contra Costa County have been seriously underfunded for many years compared to our neighboring Counties. The time to support the arts is now!

As a Contra Costa County arts organization, we would welcome more support for individual artists to create new work, arts education for youth in K-12 grades and a grant program for arts organizations located within the county. Thank you so much for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Melinda McCrary
Executive Director
Richmond Museum of History & Culture



WEST CONTRA COSTA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Visual and Performing Arts Department
6028 Ralston Ave. Richmond, CA 94805
510-307-4503



Kenneth Chris Hurst Ed.D, Superintendent
, Assoc. Superintendent, CAO

Gabriel Chilcott, Director
Patrick Martin, Coordinator

July 22, 2021

Dear County Supervisors,

I am writing in support of Measure X as a way to provide funding for the Arts in Contra Costa County.

Over the past 6 years, as the Coordinator for Visual and Performing Arts for the West Contra Costa Unified School District, I have often wrestled with the need for additional funding to keep our various programs viable. Prior to the appointment of Mrs. Hanna Ma as the STEAM/VAPA coordinator at the county office of education, I served as the County representative at the County Arts Leads Meetings in Sacramento for 3 years.

In our meetings we would hear of some incredible work being done in other counties through partnerships with their County Arts Foundations and through the California Arts Council. As a school district, these sources of funding were usually not applicable to us. I went to the Contra County Arts Commission to inquire about funding opportunities but as a commission, they were not able to provide grants or other means of funding. I found the representatives to be very supportive even though they were not able to provide monetary support.

Between the work being done in our County's school districts and the efforts of our community arts organizations, we have a vibrant system of arts education and performance/ presentation opportunities for our PreK-12 students but are often held back by the lack of a stable, coherent funding source.

In the hope that Measure X can provide such a source, I fully support its passage.

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Patrick Martin".

Patrick Martin

Coordinator
WCCUSD Visual and Performing Arts
pmartin@wccusd.net



July 22, 2021

Dear Contra Costa Measure X Advisory Board:

I am writing today in support of an arts foundation for Contra Costa County.

As the CEO & President of Visit Concord, the Tourism Improvement District Agency for the City of Concord, my team markets and promotes Concord's distinct cultural assets and amenities to visitors and residents alike. Additionally, the cities of Concord, Pleasant Hill, Walnut Creek, along with the Tri-Valley cities of Danville, Dublin, Livermore and Pleasanton recently formed a newly-branded tourism alliance designated as MtDiabloRegion.com in efforts to collectively market our amazing well-rounded destination with the [SFTravel](https://SFTravel.com) and [Visit California](https://VisitCalifornia.com) agencies on state, national and worldwide platforms.

In order to compete not only with other California cities and regions, but other states and destinations, the cultural experiences in Contra Costa County need funding to "shine". The request of \$.54 per resident would be a nominal ask to ensure the recovery and rebuilding of our Contra Costa County economy.

It is in the wake over our economic hardship that the COVID pandemic has brought, particularly to the hospitality, tourism and arts industries, a need now more than ever to find creative ways to revitalize our cities. I look forward to the positive outcome that will conclude as a result of embracing creative place-making as a crucial part of civic planning.

The proposed efforts of the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa would be truly strategic and effective for our region. I am in full support of:

1. District Public Art Programs
2. Youth Advisor in each District
3. Arts Connection with quarterly key stakeholder meetings for advocacy, opportunities, and data collection
4. Community Art Fund to support up to 5 community art projects a year
5. AIRS (Artist-in-Residency in the School) pilot program with teachers and student artists
6. Create policy for equitable new and signature programs

Thank you for your consideration.



Warmly,

Elaine Schroth

Elaine Schroth

CEO & President



Anna Smith, Executive Director 656 Quinan Street, Pinole, CA 94564 anna@quinanstreet.org (510) 585-4942

The Quinan Street Project
656 Quinan Street
Pinole, CA 94801

Measure X Board

July 22, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Anna Smith, I use she/her pronouns, and I am both an artist and a lifelong resident of Contra Costa County.

As one of the lucky few who grew up with parents who valued the arts I was always given opportunities to express myself artistically; eventually settling on the performing arts as an actor, dancer, singer, and musician. Having access to arts education set me on the path toward my life's work as an arts education advocate and an activist for equitable schooling in my community.

My mother studied printmaking at California College of the Arts (formerly California College of Arts and Crafts) and obtained a teaching credential and English degree from Mills College. Her commitment to my education and her passion for the arts and the fair treatment of children in schools inspired me to found The Quinan Street Project; a nonprofit organization providing accessible arts education to public elementary schools in the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

The original intent of QSP was to help our schools with smaller budgets have access to arts education (since I knew it was not being widely provided), and that has largely been successful; we have served approximately 2,000 children annually (mostly in Title I schools) and have seen beautiful amounts of growth in our students as their confidence has grown and their voices become stronger. But over the last 10 years of running this organization I see something else: I see that principals are being asked to make incredibly hard choices regarding how they spend funds in their budget, and I am realizing that the issue stems from higher up than our principals or even our school board.

Knowing that we as a community are investing next to nothing in the arts is beyond devastating to me. Especially after a year of watching people turn to books, music, movies, television, virtual museum tours, and more during shelter-in-place. We know that the arts are vital, and yet we decide to deprioritize them at every opportunity. This cycle must be disrupted and I am committed to seeing that disruption through.

By funding the arts in Contra Costa County you are helping us enrich and support our county as we emerge from a global pandemic. The visual and performing arts are uniquely situated to provide social-emotional healing and the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County is attempting to invest in that healing. Please do not let the future artists in our county down.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Anna Smith, M.Ed. (She/Her)
anna@quinanstreet.org
510-691-8089

/INTERSECTION
FOR THE ARTS

Randy Rollison, Executive Director

randy@theintersection.org

The Quinan Street Project
656 Quinan Street
Pinole, CA 94801

Measure X Board

July 21, 2021

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Katie Pool, and I have served since 2017 on the advisory board for The Quinan Street Project (QSP), a nonprofit organization providing arts education to public elementary schools in the West Contra Costa Unified School District. I am writing to express my support for the Measure X tax that would secure funding for the arts in Contra Costa County.

I have had the good fortune to take part in visual and performing arts throughout my life. Such outlets certainly supported my personal expression as an artist; perhaps even more importantly, they encouraged me to examine my emotions and engage with new ideas. Now, as a social worker, I see firsthand how my clients use writing, crafts, music, and countless other forms of artmaking to look after their routine mental health as well as cope with unthinkable challenges.

The arts remain a vital way for all of us to reflect on and participate in the world we live in. Indeed, in response to COVID-19 our communities looked to the arts—to books, media, streamed performances, and more—for comfort and connection. Whether we create it ourselves or find solace in the work of others, art is tantamount to socioemotional care, and we should be especially compelled to invest in this care as we emerge from the collective traumatic experience of a global pandemic.

QSP works hard to provide arts education in schools that operate with smaller budgets, but local organizations like ours cannot compensate for systemic service gaps and the lack of arts funding in Contra Costa County. This county has the third-largest population in the Bay Area and maintains the lowest arts budget. A stable source of funding would expand the county's current programs and establish a core staff to deliver services more equitably. By securing arts funding through the Measure X tax, you demonstrate your commitment to the creativity, curiosity, and emotional health of this community.

Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,

Katie Pool, LMSW, APHSW-C, OSW-C (She/Her)
209-743-9652

July 22nd, 2021

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to help underline the case that will be put forward around arts programs in Contra Costa County being drastically underfunded and how this needs to change.

I serve on the Advisory Board for The Quinan Street Project, an organization that provides theatre education to the West Contra Costa Unified School District and offers virtual and in person classes to students both afterschool and over the summer from our Pinole location. We are not unlike other non-profits where we rely so heavily on our donor bases, everyone from individuals to small local businesses to grants. Our story is also not unique on how we especially felt the crunch from this past year with balancing our budgets with lower donation numbers. Although, when the Contra Costa budget numbers came to our attention, it clicked into place why we have been feeling this pressure and lack of grant funding from organizations we'd been reaching out to. The fact that Contra Costa County has the third largest population in the Bay Area with the lowest budget is nothing short of shocking. When running the numbers, the average art funding per person is less than one dollar.

If this past year has taught us anything it is that we need to stay actively engaged with our communities, and one of the best ways for that are through thriving arts programs in and out of the classroom. Especially for young children as they are developing the skills on how to communicate, connect and express themselves creatively. This is the time to help give them the platform to encourage and build up their self-confidence. Even if students don't go into the performing arts in their adult lives, so

Leah McKibbin * 650.868.2974 * leah.mckibbin@gmail.com

many will point to theatre as a building block that helped develop public speaking skills, as well as tools to feel empathy and connection to others. Another deeply felt lesson from last year was how we need to actively listen to reach a greater and deeper understanding of one another.

So many arts organizations are at a very crucial tipping point in terms of burnout around funding, and some might not last into the next fiscal year. I truly hope you will hear the voices both speaking live on July 28th and submitting written statements that are begging for help.

Thank you for your time,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Leah McKibbin". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Leah McKibbin

Advisory Board Member, The Quinan Street Project



July 22, 2021

Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County

Attn: Jenny Balisle, Managing Director

Dear Ms. Balisle,

Thank you for inviting Concord Art Association to comment on your proposal about Measure X funding for the arts in Contra Costa County.

As a small 501c3 non-profit with 107 members and an annual budget of around \$8000, we are limited in our outreach to underserved communities within our area of the county. On our small budget we manage to lead art camps for Monument Crisis Center, teach monthly art classes for students at Wren Elementary-a Title 1 school, and issue grants to teachers in the Mt. Diablo School District. This fall we are initiating a scholarship program for Art students at Diablo Valley College. In 2021, we raised all the funds for our second public art project in Concord, painting four traffic control boxes with murals that "Celebrate Concord." Together with the boxes from the project we initiated and managed in 2019, Concord now features 15 beautiful art installations in the form of various painted utility boxes.

Dedicated volunteers bring our programs and projects to the community. Although we partner with other local non-profits such as the Concord Historical Society, Visit Concord, and Solo Opera, without paid staff our ability to lead community-wide events is limited. We must plan our activities based on the money we raise from memberships and donations, since both the County and City of Concord budget so little for art grants and programs.

For years, we have discussed holding a Central County Arts Festival to celebrate both visual and performing artists in our area. This is the kind of undertaking that requires dedicated staff and a budget bigger than what we can afford.

We dream of a day when public art that reflects the wonderful diversity of our community graces every major thoroughfare and public space in Concord. We would like to engage youth from local schools to create public art with our members. To initiate a project of that scope requires paid staff, not a small team of volunteers.

We agree with every one of your "Transformational" points and would be happy to express our support at the Measure X meeting.

Sincerely,

Catherine Hensiek
President, Concord Art Association

Michele Seville
2022 Thompson Lane
El Sobrante, CA 94803

July 13, 2021

To: Measure X Community Advisory Board

I would like to express my support for Measure X, which is expected to raise \$112M for Contra Costa County. The arts are an essential part to any community, which I have witnessed first-hand as former Arts & Culture Manager for the City of Richmond for fifteen years.

I am aware that Contra Costa County has no secure annual budget for the arts, and no permanent employee(s). Also, the funding per person in CCC is a mere \$0.12! For a county with hundreds of highly renowned artists and art non-profits, I think we can do better.

Funding the arts in CCC will be transformative. It will acknowledge the rich artistic resources we already have and will enhance our county's image. I witnessed a transformation in Richmond as the result of increased public art, which brightened the streets, reflected community history, and enabled visual expression for its artists. Public art daily impacts people's lives, and art grants support existing and emerging artists so that they can continue to produce.

CCC is already a leader in many ways. Why not the arts? We are way behind by comparison to other counties, and if we are to take our rightful place as a leader in the arts, we must invest in them! Such an investment will affect our sense of place, education, civic pride, tourism, and will create a more vital business environment.

AC5 recognizes stellar CCC artists and art non-profits every year. I, myself have received such recognition. Let's take the next step and fund Measure X so that our county can be recognized as one that honors the arts as a builder of business, community, and civic pride.

I strongly urge you to support Measure X!

Sincerely,

Michele Seville

Former Arts & Culture Manager, City of Richmond

July 22, 2021

Victoria Bianco, Teaching Artist
2288 Dalis Drive
Concord, CA 94520

Dear Measure X Community Advisory Board Members:

Did you know that throughout history art has been used to express thoughts and to reach deeper understandings of ideas and feelings? As Teaching Artist for the Veterans in Action, AboutFace Program since 2016, I have witnessed Veterans, that while engaged in the AboutFace Portrait Painting process, experience transformation. Here is one story.

Forty or so years ago, Tom, a Vietnam Army Veteran, captured through the lens of his camera, an enemy being shot between the eyes. He was close enough that when he slumped over Tom could touched him. It was his first experience with death, up close and personal. Tom was traumatized and couldn't let the experience go. This trauma sent him spiraling down, arresting his growth as a photographer for years and contributing to his PTSD. And so it was when he came to us. Through the processes and revelations that he experienced in several AboutFace painting workshops 2016 - 2018, he was able to pick up and enjoy his camera once again! By using his imagination he was able to aspire to something more.

Let me share a few other veterans reflections and comments after taking the workshop:

"I felt a sense of accomplishment after completing my self-portrait." US Army Veteran

"I felt like I was looking out a window. I felt like the image was looking back at me. I didn't feel blue at any time during the process." US Army Veteran

"I have always enjoyed looking at art. Now I am learning that I enjoy making art as well." 82nd Airborne Veteran 1966-1969

"I was critical, over my approach to this project, trying to integrate what I thought I looked like with how I envisioned my ideal self. In the end I liked what I saw." US Army Veteran

"I felt able to express myself as I blended my colors and reflected on my life." US Army Veteran

"Art has been a big part of my healing process. Watercolors is a medium that allows me to deal with trauma that I couldn't share verbally, in therapy." Marine Corps Veteran 1968-1972

"Drawing and sketching images expresses my creativity and talent with drawing. My drawings of people are very similar to their appearance. I draw quick and make details to resemble the images that I am sketching." US Navy Veteran

"This portrait makes me reflect on all these 83 years of life and where I am now. Whenever I draw and paint I feel good all over. Thank you God!" US Army Veteran

AboutFace: *Building Veterans - 'Self-understanding through Self-expression'* provides opportunities for veterans to participate in painting workshops that empowers them to play an active role in determining their wellness. Painting encourages self-expression, communication, socialization and facilitates cognitive retraining for veterans with traumatic brain injury.

Research suggests that engaging in the arts promotes wellness and alleviates pain. Art programs provide a sense of achievement and progress that diminishes emotional

stress, channels energies into acceptable forms of behavior and creates an outlet for expression of feelings.

Thanks to the California Arts Council, Veterans in Action Program and matching funds from within Contra Costa County, the program has helped participating Veterans in CCC overcome challenges, heal themselves, and develop more of their innate potential, However, CAC no longer has the Veterans In Action Program and there no funds for our About Face Program, no matching grants. This signature program's existence is in danger.

That is why I am asking you to allocate \$625,000 to secure the Arts Foundation for Contra Costa County. Measure X Funding of fifty-four cents per person would secure all of the arts programs in CCC and help to create new programs in the community. Creativity - art is and equity and economic investment.

Thank you for your time and considerations in this matter.

Sincerely,

Victoria Bianco

Teaching Artist and Program Coordinator for About Face 2020

July 21, 2021

Measure X Community Advisory Board

The Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County (AC5) request for funding from the Measure X committee will help build the infrastructure to provide a vibrant arts scene for the residents of Contra Costa County.

Contra Costa County (CCC) ranks last of the Bay Area counties in per capita spending for the arts at \$0.12. Let me repeat, LAST of the Bay Area counties in arts spending.

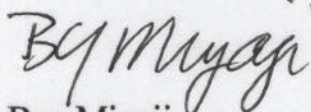
Measure X funding will allow AC5 to have full time staff and fund programs such as District Arts Programs, Youth Advisors in each district, a county-wide Public Art Program and Community Art Fund (up to 5 projects per year).

The Covid-19 pandemic has shown how the arts helped residents during the stay-at-home periods of isolation. The arts are more than television and the movies. During the pandemic people turned to literature (reading and writing), virtual museum visits, painting, sculpture, modeling and many other forms of art. Art was to educate and entertain children both in school and in home. Artists were designated as Second Responders by the California Legislature for their role during the pandemic.

A strong arts program will benefit the residents of CCC in many ways: mentally, physically and spiritually. An arts program will get residents involved in their community and provide economic stimulus to those communities to bolster Measure X funds and make a brighter future for Contra Costa County.

I urge Measure X Community Advisory Board to fund the AC5 request for funding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ben Miyaji". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Ben Miyaji

Chair, Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County

July 21, 2021

To: Measure X Community Advisory Board:

My name is Elizabeth Wood. I am a member of the Contra Costa County Arts & Culture Commission (AC5) and am the current President of Contra Costa Musical Theatre (CCMT).

I have been involved in the Performing Arts in Contra Costa, Alameda and Solano Counties for 50+ years as a Performer, Choreographer, Production Manager, Crew member, and a Member of the Board of Directors. I am also a former Advisory Council member for the Leshner Center for the Arts in Walnut Creek and of the former Willows Theatre in Concord.

In the past Decade I've seen many new performing Arts Companies and, unfortunately, some long time Companies such as Diablo Light Opera Company, the aforementioned Willows Theatre, Diablo Actors Ensemble, Butterfield 8 (aka B8 Theatre Company) and CCMT temporarily or permanently suspend operation due to lack of support, rising costs to produce shows, inability to find reasonably priced venues and most recently, AB5 "The GIG" Law. The Productions these companies sponsored is where young performers honed their skills and earned about the various aspects of Life in the Theatre; not just as a performer, but as Directors, Choreographers, Designers and Builders, Production Managers and Business Managers. Before Covid hit, many local talent were performing on Broadway, performing in Touring companies, on Cruise ships and in Amusement parks all over the World. They all agree that if it had not been for the experiences they had with Local Non-Profit Performing Arts organizations, they would never have made it to where they are today.

Another Note: While attending DVC and Cal State East Bay, I studied Child Development and participated as a volunteer at a Headstart Program, at a program at Juvenile Hall for Delinquent Teen girls, and at a Play Therapy program for abused kids. In all cases the use of Art, Music and storytelling were tools the Teachers, Counselors and Therapists used to help, treat, and counsel these youngsters. I have always wondered how those kids might have fared without the dedicated teachers/Counselors/Therapists who knew how to use Art, Music and Poetry, etc. in their treatment.

Artists of all types are often asking for support from AC5, and it is disheartening to have to tell them we just don't have the budget to fund their request and we only have 1 part-time Contract employee to do all the work. What's even worse, is when they are able to secure monetary support from neighboring County Art Commissions who seem to have more available funds, and the staff to get things done.

Please support Arts & Culture in Contra Costa County by funding the programs we need, staffing the Commission to achieve the highest return on investment and recognizing the benefits of providing Art, Music, Theater and Culture available to all County residents in the most diverse and inclusive programs as possible.

Respectfully yours,
Elizabeth M. Wood
1286 La Vista Ave
Concord, CA 94521
Lizmwood.ac5@gmail.com

Dear Measure X Advisory Board,

While I still may be able to sing the paint of the walls, I now use my voice to lift others up and amplify their voices. As a Arts and Culture Commissioner in District 2, I have a background in the performing arts, education, and a degree in communication with a foundation of social justice. I have a heart for service and civic engagement. Like many of you, I'm a dedicated volunteer. Securing funds from Measure X to invest in the people for access and experiences in arts and culture would give the Arts and Culture Commission a sustainable foundation to solidify the programs the commission currently supports-- and the hope needed to grow for the future.

I am advocating that funds be secured and earmarked to invest in programs that are already interwoven into the fabric of the commission that currently need funding:

- YOUTH ADVISOR. A Contra Costa County first! I'm proud to be the champion for this position and have created the framework for this role. Our current Youth Advisor spent \$600 out of her own pocket for the creation of Social Justice Murals that high school students collaborated on. Please fund this program so our youth can not only create a project like this for our county, but so, in the name of equity, we can expand this program to every district.
- ABOUT FACE. Offered to Veterans in Contra Costa County. A series of FREE self-portrait painting classes. The grant for this program just ended and there are no funds for it.
- POETRY OUTLOUD. A national recitation contest open to high school students.
- ARTS RECOGNITION AWARDS. An event that recognizes those who have made a significant artistic or philanthropic contribution to Contra Costa's Arts and Culture every other year.
- ARTS PASSAGES. Exhibitions showcase artists, arts organizations throughout the county.
- STAFF. We currently have one part time staff member. In order to grow in services, please compensate people for full time.
- Ensuring representation through the lens of equity in geographic, racial and ethnic tapestry that mirrors the County's diversity including by not only those at risk, vulnerable populations, people of color, foster, homeless, intergenerational, LGBTQ+, Public School, Home School, incarcerated, etc.
- Building Partnerships through the Arts Directory

Thank you for your consideration,

Beverly Kumar

Arts and Culture Commissioner of Contra Costa County
Beverly@BeverlyKumar.com

Measure X Community Advisory Board,

Our Commissioners' recognize that it is our mission to advance the arts in a way that promotes communication, education, appreciation, and collaboration to citizens throughout Contra Costa County. Presently we do this through our annual awards programs, recognition events, public art activities, specific educational programs, and the establishment of a youth advisor position. But exactly who are the citizens who comprise our community? Who and how many diverse ethnic groups live amongst us? Clearly we lack much-needed statistics. To resolve this issue, and to increase communication and understanding between all citizens through art, we must and are pursuing such much-needed research.

Art is not only a vital element in the quality of life for all of the citizens of our county, it is the goal of this Commission to preserve, celebrate, and share the arts with the many diverse ethnic groups who reside throughout the county. To accomplish this, it is imperative that we learn who and what comprise the ethnicity of such groups. We intend to do this by researching, developing, and producing, a Cultural Prospectus that, I am happy to report, we are currently in the process of preparing. When completed, we will present the findings to the Board of Supervisors, and, hopefully, we will have developed a clear path to our Commission's arts and cultural programs making Contra Costa County a vibrant and inspiring place to live.

In essence, it is everyone's duty to forge strong partnerships between the arts community and its various constituencies. As the late opera singer and a director of the New York City Opera Company, Beverly Sills, said: "Art is the signature of civilization." And, indeed, it is. Actually, Art is everywhere. From the performing arts, literature, and the visual and digital arts our Commission is dedicated to defining our culture and reflecting the state of the arts in our community.

At Large 3 Commissioner Joan D'Onofrio

I am in support of Measure X because of the invaluable benefits that art and culture have contributed to my community, and my life.

Whether it was an advanced class in high school or sketching during middle school lunch, art has and always will hold a special place in my mind and my heart. By supporting the measure, you are directly contributing to key services that will impact our youth and help them lead a path for success.

To many, art and culture are taken for granted and often misconstrued as being unimportant. I believe that is far from the truth and that given the necessary support, art educators and organizations will provide students across the county with valuable skills needed to succeed in the modern world.

Engaging with the arts develops critical thinking on the spot, patience, delayed gratification, innovation, technical prowess, visual communication skills, and much more.

By supporting the measure, you are contributing to the betterment of our youth and community for generations.

Jordan Fridle

Greetings,

How can this be? In a county the size of Contra Costa there is almost no public/financial support for the Arts. The false romantic narrative of the "starving artist" must die. The reality is that artists and art programs need capital to survive and function.

Financing thru Measure X would contribute to development of much needed arts programs and create structures within Contra Costa to be built and expanded on into the future. Equity policies would be incorporated from the ground up to include all ages and ethnicities, elevating our county to one of the most progressive rather than remaining at our bottom-of-the-barrel level.

Nourish your community with the soul food of art!

Linda Kalin
Richmond resident and artist

Jose Arandia

9 Donegal Ct
Pinole CA 94564
(510)691-2106
Jdarandia@yahoo.com

July 22, 2021

To the County Board members and leaders,

I am writing this letter in support of Measure X for Contra Costa County. As a community leader and an artist and performer, I see the value in highlighting this issue and see it as my duty to help future generations. The arts are an essential part of life and possibly the best form of expression and communication, most importantly for younger people. In Contra Costa County we are the third largest population in the Bay Area currently with \$0.12 per person that is funded to our arts programs, while San Francisco is \$1.04 per person. We have a large amount of artists in the county which I have a relation to a vast majority of them, to which I am still meeting new artists of every art form. A lot of them have been self taught and some have left the arts entirely because unfortunately the arts aren't taken as seriously as they should be and if there's anything I hope we took away from the pandemic is that the arts are an essential part of the human experience, please take this into consideration while making your decision. Thank you

Sincerely,

Jose D Arandia

601 La Gonda Way

Danville, CA 94526

(925) 984-4031

bdeppoetry@gmail.com

Re: Letter of Support for Measure X in Contra Costa County

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Brennan DeFrisco and I'm writing in support of Measure X to enrich and expand our county's engagement with the arts. I've been facilitating literary arts programming in Contra Costa for the past six years as a teaching artist, performance coach and program coordinator in the Poetry Out Loud program, as well as the county coordinator for California Poets in the Schools. I've shared words, poems, and space with various communities within our county, including K-12 public schools across the districts, alternative and secondary schools, incarcerated youth centers, libraries, bookstores, and countless culminating school events to celebrate our students' work and artistic achievement. I'm honored to have the opportunity to provide engagement with the arts to our youth and believe they need and deserve more opportunities to do so in our community.

Through the Poetry Out Loud and Cal Poets programs, I've watched students hone their public speaking and performance skills, which provides invaluable communication skills they will use for the rest of their lives. I've watched students use critical thinking, imagination, empathy, and creative understanding to discuss, discover, and unpack the subjective mysteries of poetry. These skills are in incredibly high demand in the modern job market and set them up for success in their future careers. I've watched students write and speak honestly about their feelings, their values, their truth, their understanding of the world. I've watched students become more confident, emotionally intelligent, and active in their own healing and mental health. Poetry, and art in general, provides an invaluable space for community, creativity, and collective well-being.

Art is not a luxury or an elective, but a critical part of every student's cultural and socioemotional education. In the heavy, difficult times we are living in and living through, arts programming is needed now, more than ever, to uplift our community's voices, give them more opportunities to express themselves through art, and provide more space for our youth and community members to heal, to learn, to speak, and to be heard. I dream of a community where access to the arts is available to everyone. Measure X is a much-needed step toward making that dream a reality for Contra Costa.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Brennan DeFrisco

July 23, 2021

Measure X Community Board
c/o Jenny Balisle, Managing Director
Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County
1025 Escobar Street, 4th Floor
Martinez, CA 94553
Via email: staff@ac5.cccounty.us

Dear Ms. Balisle:

At our meeting last night, the Richmond Arts & Culture Commission unanimously voted to allow me to submit this letter of support for the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa's request for secure funding for Measure X.

The City of Richmond has a rich arts and cultural tradition that contributes to its unique identity. Richmond seeks to continue to build this image as a regional center for arts and culture by working in collaboration with Contra Costa County and other cities within the region. Richmond non-profit institutions and individuals provide significant benefits that provide high quality programs and services to our residents and visitors alike.

As we seek further regional alliances, we are very much aware that, compared to neighboring Counties, the arts in Contra Costa County have been seriously underfunded for decades. The time to change that is now, and Measure X provides the opportunity to make that change.

As a Contra Costa County arts organization, we'll welcome the opportunity to seek support through the Arts Connection, AIRS (Artist-in-Residency in the School) pilot program and the Community Art Fund for Richmond-based organizations and artists.

Therefore, we support the Measure X Community Advisory Board recommendation for secure financial support of the arts in Contra Costa County through Measure X.

Respectfully submitted,
Florene Wiley, Chair
Richmond Arts & Culture Commission
Richmond CA
flo@flowiley.com
(510) 588-9255

Text & Resources

1. Introduction:

Mission: The Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County is dedicated to 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.

Link: www.contracosta.ca.gov/5281/Mission-Statement

2. Land Acknowledgment:

The Arts and Culture Commission would like to take a moment to acknowledge the land and indigenous peoples of Contra Costa County.

We collectively acknowledge that Contra Costa County resides on the traditional, ancestral, and contemporary lands of indigenous people. Contra Costa County resides on land that was cared for and called home by the Bay Miwok and Ohlone people, who shared their oral traditions in the Utian / Penutian language.

Local tribes from our county include, but are not limited to, the Saclan, Tatcan, Chupchan, Julpun, Volvon, Souyen, and other native peoples from time immemorial.

This land holds great historical, spiritual, and personal significance to its past, present, and future stewards, the native nations and peoples of this region. We honor and continue their tradition of cultural and artistic expression in Contra Costa County through our engagement with the arts today.

3-4: Commissioners:

Vice-Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma

Senior Commissioner: District 4: Elizabeth Wood

Commissioners:

District 2: Beverly Kumar

District 3: Grant Taylor

District 5: PENDING

At-Large-1: Y'Anad Burrell

At-Large-3: Joan D'Onofrio

At-Large-4: Lanita Mims

Alternate: PENDING

Links:

<https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/4973/Commissioners>

<https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/6408/Boards-and-Commissions-Database>

5-6: Signature programs:

County services we provide:

- a. Youth Advisor is a one-year term in which they perform a Commission-approved service project during their respective term.
- b. Arts Passages exhibitions at the County Administration Building.
- c. Arts Recognition Awards highlights individuals and organizations.
- d. Arts Café is a series of art workshops, lectures, discussions, and exhibitions.
- e. Arts Directory and Calendar for Contra Costa County artists or arts organizations.
- f. ABOUTFACE is a free self-portrait painting classes for Contra Costa County Veterans.
- g. Poetry Out Loud is a national recitation contest for high school students.
- h. Local Arts and Cultural Organizations Grant (LACOG) was a one-time grant.

Link: www.ac5.org

7: Upcoming:

Artist Power Convenings is a one-time grant we are assisting YBCA facilitate. The grants prioritize Black and African American; American Indian or Alaska Native; Latinx; Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander; Asian; disabled and LGBTQIA+ artists in Contra Costa County.

Link: www.ybca.org

Arts and Culture Prospectus of Contra Costa County is a series of Fall workshops in which we'll be identifying cultural stakeholders to define public art projects in each District. Project funded by a rebudget of a one-time allocation for Fiscal Year 21-22.

Link: <https://youtu.be/N2TADmDFQU>

8-9: Prevention:

- a. Artists are second responders.
- b. Art is free expression to address social issues.

- c. Art addresses collective grief.
- d. Art uplifts all communities.

Links:

www.ac5.org
www.robindlopez.com
www.calawyersforthearts.org/arts-in-corrections.html
www.meaningfulteens.org/
www.lamorindaweekly.com/archive/issue1419/High-school-students-collaboration-demonstrates-power-of-art-better-together.html

10: Data:

82% of Americans believe arts & culture are important to local businesses and the economy.
 87% of Americans believe arts & culture are important to quality of life.

Links:

<https://www.americansforthearts.org/by-program/reports-and-data/research-studies-publications/arts-economic-prosperity-5/learn/national-findings>
<https://www.bea.gov/news/2021/arts-and-cultural-production-satellite-account-us-and-states>

11: Data:

Local vs. Nonlocal Arts Audience Spending
 Local Audience Spending // \$23.44
 Nonlocal Audience Spending // \$47.57

Link:

<https://www.americansforthearts.org/by-program/reports-and-data/research-studies-publications/arts-economic-prosperity-5/learn/national-findings>

12. Data:

95% of local arts agencies use the arts to address community development issues (e.g., youth, economic, diversity)
 91% of Americans believe that the arts are vital to providing well-rounded education.

Links:

<https://www.americansforthearts.org/by-program/reports-and-data/research-studies-publications/arts-economic-prosperity-5/learn/national-findings>
<https://www.instagram.com/beanartshero/>

13. Data:

Music training increases toddler IQ. In early childhood, the arts have been shown to improve IQ and spatial cognition in 3-5 year olds.
 Students who take four years of arts and music classes score an average of over 150 points higher on the SAT.
 Low-income students engaged in the arts are more than twice as likely to graduate college

Link: <https://www.instagram.com/beanartshero/>

14-15. Data:

Contra Costa County: 3rd highest population and lowest budget.
 Funding average per person: \$1.04 Contra Costa County: \$.12
 Contra Costa County: largest services gap and 0 employees

Links:

<https://transparentcalifornia.com/>
www.ac5.org
<https://www.artscouncilnapavalley.org>
<https://www.westaf.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/ACNV-FINAL-Position-Announcement-9-20-18.pdf>
<https://www.marincultural.org/>
<https://www.marincounty.org/depts/cu/contact-us>
<https://www.solanocountyartscouncil.com/>
<https://www.zoominfo.com/c/solano-county-arts-council/346740852>
<https://www.creativesonoma.org/>
<https://cmo.smcgov.org/arts-commission>
<https://cmo.smcgov.org/contact-san-mateo-county-arts-grants-progra>
<https://www.sfartscommission.org/>
<https://www.acgov.org/arts/html/home.html>
<https://www.svcreates.org/>

16. Data:

California State-Local Partners Snapshot Survey:

Average budget size: **\$519,449**

Average Number of Employees:

Full-time – **2.94**

Part-time – **2.93**

Contractors – **6.92**

*The Arts Commission was established in 1994.

No CCC arts demographic data due to limited budget.

Contra Costa County Summary:

3rd highest population

0 employees and 1 part-time independent contractor

0 secure funds

\$31,000 average grant budget match

Link: https://arts.ca.gov/grant_program/state-local-partnership/

17. Trends

California Arts Council

1. No longer sole funding source.
2. Support Commissions with basic secure funding.
3. Look to invest in partnerships.
4. Discontinuing ABOUTFACE grant program.
5. CAC grant funds can't be used for grant matches.
6. Arts Commission budget has close to zero leverage.

Equity

1. Investment reflects values.
2. \$31,000 CCC grant match is inadequate.
3. CCC has a huge diverse artistic population.
4. Disproportionately impacts every community.
5. LACOG grantee feedback:
"The lack of CCC arts investment has created a disconnect between artists, art organizations, and residents."

Links:

<https://arts.ca.gov/>

<https://arts.ca.gov/about/>

<https://arts.ca.gov/programs/>

18. Transformational:

What bold experiments, big ideas, and innovative approaches to meet key needs?

1. District Public Art Program: Every Bay Area County has a public art program! Let's build Contra Costa County's first public art program!
2. Community Art Fund: Up to 5 community art projects a year
3. AIRS (Artist-in-Residency in the School) pilot program: Pilot program where teaching artists in CCC schools work with students to create an art project.

Links:

https://www.acgov.org/arts/html/public_art.html

<https://www.sfartscommission.org/our-role-impact/programs/public-art>

<https://www.sccgov.org/sites/scc/gov/CountyPolicies/Board-Policy-7.18-Public-Art.pdf>

<https://www.marinarts.org/>

<https://cmo.smcgov.org/office-community-affairs-public-art>

<https://www.creativesonoma.org/public-art/>

<https://www.solanocounty.com/depts/genserv/scpac/default.asp>

<https://www.sfartscommission.org/content/artist-residence-program>

<https://www.sfartsed.org/programs/artists-in-residence/>

19. Transformational:

What bold experiments, big ideas, and innovative approaches to meet key needs?

1. Arts Connection: Connect artists and art organizations for quarterly meetings for advocacy, opportunities, and data collection.
2. Youth Advisor in each District: Expands equity and opportunity to youth in each District!
3. Build Structures: Community creates policy for new and signature programs based on equity. All other Bay Area Counties have Arts and Culture in their General Plans!

Links:

www.sryouthartcommittee.org

<https://www.sfartscommission.org/information-for/artists/resources/artist-directory>

<https://eastbayopenstudios.com/artist-directory/>

<https://www.oaklandartmurmur.org/all-listings/>

<https://www.artspan.com/artist-directory-az/A>

20. Numbers Matter:

Bay Area Counties:

\$1.04 average arts funding per person

\$1.04 x 1,155,879 Contra Costa County residents= \$1,205,601

Contra Costa County ask \$625,000 \$.54 per resident

21. \$625,000 Investment

TOP PRIORITY: SECURE STAFF TO DELIVER SERVICES!

Let's build an arts foundation in CCC! It will take time and dedicated staff to do so!

a. Support Team: \$305,000

Managing Director

Program Coordinator

Communication and Marketing

b. Build Structures: \$45,000

Facilitator works with CCC residents to create policy for District Public Art Programs, Community Projects Fund, and Signature Programs based on equity!

c. Signature Programs: \$100,000

Arts and Culture Prospectus of Contra Costa County, ABOUTFACE, Poetry Out Loud, Youth Advisor, Jump StArts CAC grant, Art Recognition Awards, and Art Passages

d. District Public Art Program: \$100,000 (\$20,000 each District)

e. New Programs: \$50,000

Youth Advisor (each District)

AIRS (Artist-in-Residency in the Schools) pilot program

Arts Connection (CCC artists/art organizations quarterly meetings for advocacy, opportunities, and data collection)

f. Community Art Fund: \$25,000 up to 5 projects a year!

22. 5 Reasons \$625,000:

1. Arts is an equity & economic investment.
2. A stable funding source secures programs.
3. Follows best practices of regional County partners:
average per person \$1.04 and our ask \$.54
4. Acknowledges community needs through new programs.
5. Art speaks to the human experience and uplifts all communities!

We can do this together!

23. Thank you MCAB!

**Additional information available per request.*

East Bay Center for the Performing Arts

Lifting up the lives of our young people through the healing power of art



Measure X

Community Advisory Board Meeting 7/28/21

PRESENTED BY RUTHIE DINEEN, LCSW
MANAGING DIRECTOR



Building on Years of Success, the Next Step is Now

Recommitting and refocusing to strengthen programs and deepen impact

**53 YEARS OF QUALITY
PERFORMING ARTS PROGRAMS**

Music, Theater, and Dance
based in Iron Triangle neighborhood of Richmond

100,000+ YOUTH
engaged since 1968

3,500 STUDENTS
in 13 WCCUSD schools

500 STUDENTS AT THE CENTER'S MAIN SITE

85 weekly classes, 140 weekly private lessons, 18 annual recitals,
8 youth ensembles

**virtual during Covid and this summer/fall returning to in-person*



Who We Serve

OUR COMMUNITY

AT OUR MAIN SITE

500 STUDENTS ANNUALLY (AGES 3-18)

60% of our students are Latinx

30% African American

70% of our students are female

85% of students in our intensive Young Artist Diploma Program (ages 12-18) stay in the program 6 years

100% of our students who complete our Diploma Program graduate high school, 90% go on to college

100% of classes are tuition-free

IN THE SCHOOLS

3,500 STUDENTS ANNUALLY (TK-12TH GRADE)

91% of students in South Richmond's Kennedy Family of Schools are "socioeconomically disadvantaged"

Our Approach



AN INTEGRATED HOLISTIC MODEL

WITH ARTISTIC TRAINING AS THE MEANS



**EAST BAY CENTER FOR
THE PERFORMING ARTS**

Unmet Needs



Demand for performing
arts programs in WCCUSD
schools



Wrap-around performing
arts program for children
ages 3-11



Strengths-based
mental health support
services

Transformational Ideas



LONG-TERM

culture specific and cross-cultural performing arts education in WCCUSD.

HEALING-CENTERED

performing arts training for children and youth ages 3-18, and support into college.

STRENGTHS-BASED

community support and space, which uses performing arts as the tool for transformation.

Measure X Request \$1.5 Million/Year



TITLE I SCHOOLS
PERFORMING ARTS INITIATIVE:
\$500,000/YEAR



ARTS TRAINING PATHWAY TO
COLLEGE AND CIVIC
LEADERSHIP:
\$500,000/YEAR



STUDENT SUPPORT/WRAP
AROUND PROGRAM:
\$500,000/YEAR

Lifting Up the Lives of our Young People
through the Healing Power of Art

EAST BAY CENTER FOR THE PERFORMING ARTS



Annual Report 2019 - 2020

Board of Directors

Susan Lindheim, MD, *President*

Mayra L. Padilla, PhD, *Vice President*

Tamia Ramos Alon, Esq., *Secretary*

Richard Zhu, *Treasurer*

John Clawson

Gail Covington

Kelly Finley

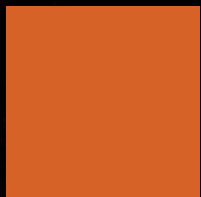
Monica Pressley

Joel Ramirez

Timothy Thompson-Cook, MBA

Vanessa Whang





Dear Friends,

We celebrate each of you as extended family, give thanks to you and renew our commitment to our mission, our vision and our values.

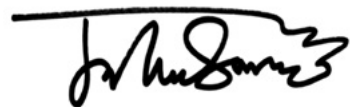
However, this year – make no mistake – has been different. These are high stakes times.

We want to share with you the way we are keeping our students nurtured and our work alive and evolving, and the determination of our alumni navigating our world during a time of change. I hope you will, as I do, take heart in these young adults' passion, joy and aspiration for our community. The reality of that joy and resilience, their love of life, justice and art is a call for both healing and solidarity.

Thank you for being with us. Writing this annual report is about due diligence and our work of this last year, but it is also about appreciation for your support. We recognize that our work is lifted by your contributions of resources and spirit. Every bit of new resource that finds its way to the Center helps to define the coming generations.

We hope you know how honored we are and how committed we remain.

In peace and solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jordan Simmons', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Jordan Simmons

Artistic Director



FACULTY

Akwasi Abrefah

Steel Pans

Philip Amo Agyapong

African Music and Dance

Francis Kofi Akotuah

West African Drumming

Ceressa Allen

Hip Hop Dance

Bryan Alvarez

Brass — Trombone

Kwesi Anku

West African Music and Dance

Tiffany Austin

Voice

Ezra Bristow

Samba, Hip Hop Dance

Ashley Brown

Ballet, Modern, Yoga

Isaac Butler-Brown

Percussion and Brass

Cesar Cancino

Piano, Musical Theater

Leslie Carter

West African Dance

Jason Chiu

Piano

K.J. Dahlaw

Dance

Ruthie Dineen

Piano

Khalil Doak-Anthony

Guitar

Sebastiao Felix

Capoeira, Samba

Allyson Flores

Music, Piano

Mara Fox

Brass, Jazz

Lolis Garcia

Son de la Tierra, Director

Norman Gee

Theater

Eli Goldlink

Piano

Jonathan Hampton

Voice

Hiyas Hila

Richmond Chamber Ensemble Director, Piano

Miya Hisaka

Iron Triangle Urban Ballet Director

Katie Issel Pitre

Voice, Theater

Nikita Jew

Ballet

Carla Kaufman

Double Bass

Joe Kelly

Steel Pans

Aaron Kierbel

Percussion

Betty Ladzekpo

West African Dance

CK Ladzekpo

West African Dance and Music

Andrea Landin

Cello

Kwaku Manu

West African Music and Dance

Tanya Marie

Theater

Lydia Martin

Percussion

Maurice Nunn

Theater

Eliza O'Malley

Voice

Joe Orrach

Theater Tap, Poetry

Ryan Pate

Guitar, Music theory, Digital music

Achyutan Pattillo

Drums

Dr. Artemio Posadas

Son de la Tierra, Director

Sly Randolph

Drums

Teyahnee Ridgle

Hip Hop

Chelsea Riley

Aerial Dance

Matt Roads

Drum line and Double Bass

Tarik Rollerson

Hip Hop Dance

Emily Ryan

Voice

Dana Salzman

Voices of Reason Director

Candace Sanderson

Violin, Chamber music

Jonathan Seiberlich

Brass- Tuba

Alan Shearer

Violin

Jordan Simmons

Iron Triangle Theater Director, Capoeira

Allie Simpson

Strings - Viola

Annie Smith

Voice

Paul Smith-Stewart

Bass, Guitar, Composition

Richard Squeri

Stage Combat

Linda Steele

Ballet, Modern, Hip Hop

W. Allen Taylor

Theater

Valerie Troutt

Voices of Reason Director

Javier Trujillo Jurado

Guitar

Atim Uddofia

Theater

Carolyn Walter

Woodwinds

Deontae Watkins

Hip Hop

Jamar Welch

Hip Hop

Howard Wiley

Richmond Jazz Collective Director

Janet Woodhams

Richmond Chamber Ensemble Director, Flute

About the Bells



Among the Anlo Ewe of West Africa, the double iron bell (*Gankogui*) is often described as the metronome in classical musical ensembles. In English, it can be called a timekeeper. Resembling a human figure, the bells in combination can also reproduce tonal patterns mirroring speech, and thus can speak in a kind of surrogate voice, merging poetic meaning and music. When a child is born in traditional culture, the child may receive a bell connecting it to society as well as a rattle (*Axatse*) connecting it to the earth. At this time of change in our world, we chose the image of *Gankogui* for its beauty, its connection to our Deep Roots Wide World curriculum and for all it evokes. We all need to be timekeepers.

About the Center

who we are

Founded in 1968, East Bay Center for the Performing Arts engages youth and young adults in imagining and creating new worlds for themselves and new visions for their communities through rigorous training in world performance traditions.

We believe in the power of art to create beauty and new ways of seeing the world. We believe in the ability of the performing arts to give voice to the silent, to unite peoples of diverse backgrounds, and to help realize the highest potential of communities and the individuals who live in them. And we believe in the importance of connecting the creative and uplifting powers of the arts with children and youth who in their daily lives must contend with systemic poverty, violence, and other barriers to peace, justice and prosperity.

what we do

Annually, East Bay Center provides instruction and mentoring to 3,500 students through public school partnerships, and an additional 500 students through our main site programs, which includes 130 7th-12th graders enrolled in our six-year, tuition-free college readiness Young Artist Diploma Program. Our mission here at East Bay Center goes beyond training in the arts. Center staff and faculty are deeply committed to providing an exceptional, nurturing, and rich environment where students are engaged to discover their inherent gifts, their fullest potential and deepest strengths.

With COVID came shelter-in-place orders and school closures, along with an immediate need for us to rethink how to effectively continue working with our 4,000 students and their families, many of whom were among those hit hardest by the pandemic. Center staff and faculty quickly and creatively shifted 95% of our instruction in music, theater and dance, as well as wraparound/support services, to virtual platforms and on-line delivery, essentially continuing our work uninterrupted – both through our main site programs, as well as our work in the schools.

Our community faces unprecedented challenges, and we are committed to sustaining our programs, supporting our students and their families, and deepening our partnerships with other front-line agencies and our local schools in the coming year and beyond.

We hope you will be inspired by our work and consider joining us on this journey.





TIME of CHANGE

East Bay Center was founded immediately after the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1968 as a local Richmond response to the unrest, anger, frustration, and need for change. Today our foundational values remain rooted in civil rights, equity and justice, and yet, as a community we all bear witness to how these values have been continually tested by the weight of racism and violence. We understand that restating our values is not enough. As we grieve with our Black community for the lives of Breonna Taylor, Tony McDade, Ahmaud Arbery, George Floyd, and so many more, we know there is a clear call to action:

We at East Bay Center understand the call to organize.

We understand the call to work collectively to create an equitable environment in which our children can achieve their fullest potential.

We understand this work must integrate protest, voting, advocacy, direct action, moral reasoning and the power and imagination of culture and the arts.

At East Bay Center we have held a special trust: the engagement of children, youth and young people's imagination through an intentional focus on arts from across the Diaspora – so that they might fulfill a new and better vision of our community and world. We are conscious of the responsibilities and boundaries this work requires and proud that East Bay Center has always been grounded in the beauty and imagination of Black culture and the inspiration of all of our ancestors.

We want you to be certain that we are more resolved than ever. We are committed to being a resource for our Black students and community where they may find safety, joy, and expression through performing arts. We are committed to uplifting and celebrating the narratives and art of local Black artists and innovators, so that our students and community feel empowered to affect change. Through our students' work, our faculty commissions, our partnerships with our local schools, residents and other community organizations who are committed to justice and beauty, we will do everything in our power to lift up this moment going forward as a time of change.

In community,
Staff and Faculty of East Bay Center

CORE PROGRAMS

SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Provide weekly online music instruction

to 3,500 youth in South Richmond public schools and expand virtual grade-appropriate and culturally relevant curriculum materials in music, dance, and theater to the entire 28,000 TK-12 students in the West Contra Costa Unified School District.

CORE INSTRUCTION

Provide 80+ virtual group

classes as part of our main site program in the fall and spring at no cost to local children and youth – we're able to serve 500 students each session.

SUPPORT SERVICES

Continue to provide enhanced emergency services to our community.

Since mid-March, when Shelter-in-Place orders closed the Center's building, we have provided intensive levels of assistance to students and their families – including emergency services/assessments coordinated by our on-staff social workers and cash distributions from our own Emergency Fund to local families experiencing immediate crisis for food/housing insecurity, as well as challenges with legal, medical and government aid access.

YOUNG ARTIST DIPLOMA PROGRAM

Sustain intensive long-term college readiness

mentoring, training and leadership development/civic engagement projects within the six-year tuition-free Young Artist Diploma Program for 130 youth in grades 7-12. In 2019/20, through individual tutoring and mentoring, we helped assure that 22 12th-grade Diploma Program students completed high school and submitted their college applications.





Antoine Hunter *Dance*

Award-winning African American Deaf choreographer, dancer, instructor, actor, poet, producer, and Deaf advocate. He is founder and Artistic Director of both Urban Jazz Dance Company and the Bay Area International Deaf Dance Festival.



Deanna Yasaki *Saxophone*

Deanna received her BA at CSU Hayward, MEd Curriculum & Instruction from CSU Bakersfield, and MEd Administration from UC Berkeley. She began teaching in the WCCUSD in 2006 and is now an elementary school principal in Rodeo.



Monserrat Armendaris-Ibarria *Dance*

Monserat received her BA in Sociology, with a minor in American Studies and Chicano Studies from UC Merced, and a Masters in teaching at University of Southern California. She is currently an education specialist.



Paola Meza Rojas *Voice*

Paola joined the Young Artist Diploma Program at the start of her junior year at Kennedy High in Richmond, and now attends San Francisco State University studying music.



Simmie Foster *Piano*

Simmie followed an educational path that would lead to a BA in Molecular & Cell Biology from UC Berkeley and an MD & PhD from Yale. She's currently an Instructor in Psychiatry at Harvard Medical School.



Jamar Welch *Theater, Hip Hop Dance*

Jamar was the Artistic Director/Co-founder of the Hip Hop Dance Company, "Housin' Authority." He has worked with Michael Jackson, Madonna, Usher, Beyoncé, and Diana Ross, while also teaching at the Center for 20 years.



Danny Sandoval *Jazz Saxophone*

Danny started playing semi-professionally when he was 16, playing up to five nights a week in San Francisco, paying his way through college. He now works at the California Health Care Foundation in Sacramento.



Mayra Padilla *Dance, Theater*

Mayra received a BS in Applied Physics from UC Davis and a PhD in Neuroscience from UC Berkeley. Today, she is the Dean of Institutional Effectiveness & Equity at Contra Costa College and is VP of the Center's Board of Directors.



Isabel Hurley *Saxophone*

Isabel graduated from Dartmouth College in 2019 where she continues to focus on Jazz at the Hopkins Center for the Arts at Dartmouth.



Gonzalo Rucobo *Dance, Steel Pans*

In 2005, Gonzalo co-founded Bay Area Peacekeepers, a gang intervention program designed to touch those individuals that the community and society had given up on. He continues to serve as ED of this organization.



Ricardo Esquivias *Son, Violin*

Ricardo attended Sarah Lawrence College, where he studied dance. After graduation, he worked as an AmeriCorps volunteer, teaching dance to children. In 2011, he joined the staff of City Year New Hampshire.



Joel Calderón *Double Bass*

Joel has worked closely with Center faculty to develop a student music group at Richmond High, a group that is now 25 members strong. Joel attends UC Berkeley where he studies Astrophysics and Music. Astrophysics and Music.



Joaquin Quintana del Carpio *Violin, Son*

Joaquin hopes to one day recreate the Center's model in other underserved neighborhoods in California and beyond. He is currently studying International Business at San Francisco State University.

One hundred



Selah Laigo *Piano, Ballet, West African Dance*

The Center has been a second home to Selah since the age of four. Selah now studies Humanities at Dominican University.



Chloe Dichoso *Voice*

Chloe is currently attending California State University Long Beach, where she is studying public health and music.



Richard Zhu *Piano*

Richard continued studying piano at UC Berkeley, as well as earning his BS in Business. He is currently a Vice President of Investment Solutions at Merrill Lynch. He also serves as Treasurer on the Center's Board of Directors.



Marshall Hooper *Trumpet*

Marshall graduated from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, with a Major in Business Finance. He credits the mentorship he received at the Center for his success.



Father Maseo Gonzales *Hip Hop Music*

Fr Maseo founded El Padrecito Ministries, a nonprofit which brings faith and the arts together in the service of empowering youth. Over the years, he has provided guidance to over 10,000 youth throughout the country.



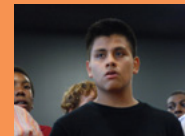
Abigail Armendaris *Hip Hop, Ballet, Son*

Abigail is studying theater design/criminology at Contra Costa College, pursuing a career in lighting design and juvenile reentry programs. Currently, she is studying in Ghana and dancing at the Ghanaian National Theater.



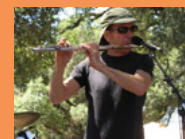
Monique Woods *Voice*

Monique is a Bay Area vocal artist who goes by the stage name "MoeSoul," performing with local and national recording artists. She also works for the Alameda County Probation Department as a Juvenile Institutional Officer.



Henry Benitez *Guitar, Steel Pans, Voice*

Henry moved with his family to California from El Salvador at the age of 9. Henry attributes the Center for his deep commitment to his community. He graduated from UCLA in 2018 and hopes to attend law school in the near future.



Matt Eakle *Flute*

Matt began studying flute at the Center soon after it opened in 1968. He has gone on to become an accomplished jazz and classical flutist, playing with musicians such as Dave Grisman, Bonnie Raitt and Jerry Garcia.



Liam Collins *Saxophone*

Liam graduated from UCLA, with a degree in Ethnomusicology and as a member of the UCLA Jazz Orchestra. He is now pursuing a graduate degree abroad at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona.



Pablo Puente *Voice, Piano, Aerial Dance*

Awarded a full scholarship to Wesleyan University where he is currently studying music, Pablo works as an intern at the Center during his summers.



Malachi Whitson *Jazz Percussion*

As a graduate of the Brubeck Institute at University of the Pacific, Malachi has performed with major artists such as Bobby McFerrin and Joshua Redman. He is currently studying at the Herbie Hancock Institute of Jazz at UCLA.

Alumni



Genevieve Simmons *Violin, Piano, Son, West African Music and Dance*
Genevieve graduated from Yale University with degrees in cognitive science and music, and has gone on to teach English in Hong Kong and travel.



Andre Taylor *Theater*
Andre graduated from UC Santa Barbara in Spring 2016 with a BA in Theater and is currently pursuing acting and other creative endeavors in Los Angeles.



Aubyn Banwell *Son, Steel Pans*
Aubyn is a second-generation alumnus of East Bay Center – her father Matt Eakle was also a Center student. Aubyn studied Studio Art at University of Puget Sound and now practices regenerative, sustainable agriculture.



G'bari Gilliam *Hip Hop, West African Dance*
G'bari received Honorable Mention in World Dance Forms from the National YoungArts Foundation, and went on to major in Dance and Sociology at UCLA. G'bari currently is a core member of Versa-Style Dance Company.



Maame Korley *Cello, Steel Pans*
Maame aims to major in public health, she is “passionate about food justice and healthy food distribution,” and women’s health “because of the abundant need for advocates in many places like Ghana and India.”



Camila Quintana del Carpio *Piano, Flute*
Camila studied at UC Berkeley, where she earned a dual degree in Environmental Science and Forestry, and recently became a registered forester. While at UC Berkeley, she supervised the Center’s college prep and tutoring program.



Dolores “Lolis” Garcia *Traditional Mexican Music & Dance*
Lolis has been with the Center since a young age, first, as a student and now as faculty/staff member, teaching Traditional Mexican music and dance, as well as co-directing *Son de la Tierra*, one of the Center’s resident companies.



John Dandan *Piano*
After graduating from Berklee College of Music, John founded the Dandan Performing Arts Center, which provides access to high-quality music and arts education to underserved communities in San Lorenzo and the East Bay.



Howard Wiley *Jazz Saxophone, Drums*
Howard has received the Thelonious Monk Scholarship, Downbeat Instrumentalist Award for Best Soloist and MVP Award for the Grammy All-American Jazz Band. He became Director of the Center’s Richmond Jazz Collective in 2013.



Jorge Luis Garcia *Film*
Jorge studied cinema at San Francisco State University. His most recent accomplishment was the screening of a film he wrote/directed/co-produced, *Guardia de mi Hermano* (My Brother’s Keeper), at Cannes Film Festival in May 2018.



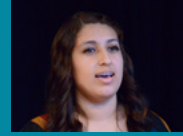
Blessing Ojeh *Modern Dance, West African Dance, Hip Hop*
Blessing went on to study at Columbia University, majoring in psychology and evolutionary biology, with plans for a career in medicine or healthcare management.



Noah Simpson *Hip Hop*
In High School, Noah was inducted into the National Honor Society for Dance Arts. He joined Chapkis Dance Family where he competed in the Hip Hop International World Championship, World of Dance Finals, and America’s Got Talent!



Maritza Rivera *Voice, Son Jarocho*
Maritza credits the Center with helping her to apply to and receive multiple scholarships to attend UC Riverside, where she earned a BS in Business Administration. She now works in Human Resources at UC Berkeley.



Janelly Briseño *Voice*
As a first generation Mexican American and first generation in her family to go to college, Janelly attended UC Davis and graduated in 2019.



Camille Bauman-Jaeger *Classical Voice*
Camille graduated from Barnard College with a BA in Architecture and from Carnegie Mellon University with an MS in Computational Design. She is now pursuing a career as a freelance designer, architect and writer.



Marshall Hooper *Trumpet*
Marshall graduated from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, with a Major in Business Finance and credits the mentorship he received at the Center for his success.



Darius Drooh *West African Dance, Modern Dance, Ballet*
After high school, Darius traveled to New York on a fellowship from the Alvin Ailey Dance Company. He continues to live/work in NYC, working with choreographers such as Anthony Burrell and Carlos dos Santos Jr.



Olivya Conner *Piano, Voice, Theater*
In August 2018, Olivya directed the dark theater piece, “The Pillowman,” by Martin McDonagh, at the Center. Olivya now attends Sarah Lawrence College in Bronxville, New York on a nearly full scholarship where she studies pre-law.



Kalin Freeman *Jazz Saxophone*
Kalin was raised a few blocks from Richmond’s Iron Triangle neighborhood and did not learn an instrument until he was a freshman in high school and joined the Diploma Program. He now leads the jazz group, Soul Progressions.



Victor McElhaney *Jazz Percussion*
As a role model for the younger generation and a talented Jazz drummer, Victor demonstrated presence of mind, leadership and resilience. Victor attended USC Thornton School of Music, studying jazz drumming/percussion.



Jordan Simmons *Capoeira, Shakuhachi Flute, Theater*
A Richmond native, Jordan became a Center student in the 1970s and joined the faculty in 1978. He became Artistic/Executive Director in 1985, and is a Capoeira Mestre, shakuhachi teacher, and theater director.



Rodrigo Perez *Trumpet, Son*
Rodrigo’s parents are immigrants from Sinaloa, Mexico and Rodrigo’s devotion to the Mexican Son art form is a testament to his commitment to his cultural roots. He now attends Cal Poly, studying Aerospace Engineering.



Deontae Watkins *Hip Hop*
As a Diploma student, Deontae attended 15 hours of classes/rehearsals a week. He is now starting his own dance crew and is back at the Center as a dance faculty member.



Pinkie Young *Flute*
Pinkie went on to study geology and environmental science at Occidental College where she graduated in 2017. Pinkie now works as a Staff Geologist at Environmental Applications, Inc. in Pasadena.



Fernando Espinosa *Guitar*
In the fall of 2013, Fernando was admitted to UC Santa Cruz on scholarship; the first of his family to do so. He is currently serving in the US Navy and being trained in advanced electronics.



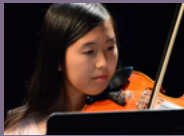
Devun Amoranto *Piano, Cello*

Devun was one of the hardest working students at the Center. He is attending UC Berkeley where, as a first-generation college student, he is double majoring in Music and Computer Science.



Isaac Coyle *Jazz Bass*

Isaac played with a number of Allstar Jazz bands in high school and even toured to Japan. He is now attending Berklee School of Music with a full scholarship.



Kiana Hu *Violin, Voice, Steel Pan*

Kiana is currently studying classics at Stanford University. In her free time, she sings with Stanford O-Tone East Asian Acapella group and plays with Cardinal Calypso Steelpan Band.



Jett Lim *Jazz Trombone*

In high school, Jett was selected for several Allstar Jazz bands, playing at Carnegie Hall and touring Europe. Jett is now attending Peabody Institute Jazz Program at Johns Hopkins University.



Quetzalli Muñoz *Son de la Tierra*

A student at UC Berkeley, Quetzalli is the first in her family to attend college. She is focusing on pre-med with dreams of going into the field of global surgery.



Rune Simmons *Capoeira*

Rune began his studies at the Center at age 5. With an interest in economics and cognitive science, Rune is attending UC Berkeley and received a \$12.5k Ahlsten Scholarship for academics and service.



Alyssa Villanueva *Theater*

Born in Belize, and raised in Richmond, Alyssa draws on Kriol as a second language in her dramatic writing. She is studying at the prestigious theater program at The Royal Conservatoire of Scotland.



Ainsley Walker *Dance*

As a dedicated leader in dance classes at the Center as well as an honors student in math and science, Ainsley is poised for success. She is attending Barnard College on a full scholarship.



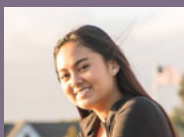
Paloma Wood *Voice, Theater*

Growing up in both Napa and Richmond, two very different communities, Paloma learned a lot about inequity and is a social justice activist. She is now attending Howard University.



Jonathan York *Voice, Piano*

Through his lessons at the Center Jonathan honed his skills as a performer and leader – one with a clear artistic and personal voice. He now attends UC Riverside.



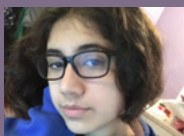
Alexandra Mendoza *Voice and Dance*

Alex is currently a Nursing student at University of San Francisco. She also continues to make her voice heard through sharing music, podcasts, and poetry online.



Noemi Gomez *Son de la Tierra*

Noemi credits her Center family with supporting her eating disorder recovery. She runs a blog to share her recovery process to inspire and support others and is creating a podcast.



Maya Flores-Mejia *Dance and Music*

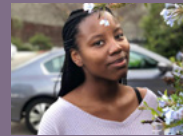
Maya is studying Kinesiology at CSU Monterey Bay where she has an athletic training internship. She is also involved in Mindful Life, contributing to their album of mindfulness music.

One hundred



Ashley Dominguez *Piano, Percussion*

Ashley attends UC Berkeley where she is majoring in International Relations and minoring in Gender/ Women's Studies. She is doing research on the health impacts of the Chevron oil refinery in Richmond.



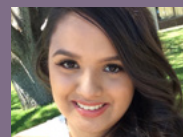
Heaven Robinson *Theater, Dance*

Heaven grew up in Richmond and got involved in the Center through a local community Center. She is currently a full-time student at CSU Los Angeles.



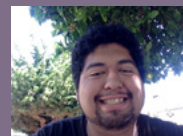
Side 2 Side *Theater, Comedy*

Side 2 Side is a comedian. She has a one-woman show, and has worked with artists such as Patti La Belle, Eddie Griffin and Mikki Howard and also teaches comedy workshops.



Maria Fernanda Figueroa *Theater/ Musical Theater*

Maria studies Musical Theatre at CSU Chico, with plans to pursue a masters in social work. She has appeared in productions of "Colorado," "The River Bride," and "The Addams Family."



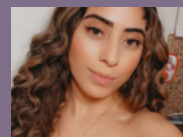
Arturo Armendaris-Ibarria *Son de la Tierra, Steel Pans*

Arturo grew up at the Center. He had two Associates degrees by the time he finished high school and is currently a behavioral technician for children with autism.



Jayla Hernandez *Percussion*

Jayla is a talented and dedicated drummer. She started attending San Francisco Conservatory of Music in fall 2020 to continue studying percussion.



Jennifer Jimenez *Dance*

Jennifer has a BA in Child & Adolescent Development with a concentration in Youth and Out of School Work. She works with Richmond Promise helping high school seniors apply and transition to college.



Jonathan Valenzuela *Theater, Dance*

After benefiting from attending summer enrichment programs, Jonathan founded "Support for Summer," a Center project to help other high school students get scholarships to attend summer programs. He is attending UCLA.



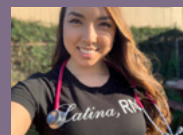
Alejandra Covarrubias *Dance*

Alejandra was on a semi-professional cycling team and traveled the country for races. She credits East Bay Center dance classes with teaching her how to move her body for all types of motion.



Julia (Mendoza) Ocampo *Dance, Singing, Piano, Acting*

Julia received her Bachelors of Science in Recreation, Park, and Tourism administration, with plans to pursue her Masters in Human Resources while raising her 2-year-old daughter.



Mayra Figueroa *Dance*

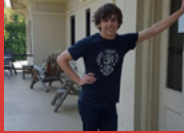
Mayra graduated from Dominican University with a B.S. in Nursing science and is now a registered nurse. She received mentorship from another Center alum to pursue her career in nursing.



Tarin Griggs *Dance*

Tarin is a performance artist and nonprofit administrator specializing in arts and education. She holds an M.Ed. in Arts in Education from the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

Alumni *(continued)*



Avery Mitchell *Theater*

After attending University of Redlands, Avery returned to East Bay Center as a Production Technician and is a key part of many Center performances.



Gabriel Lambirth *Guitar*

Gabriel Lambirth is a Dove Award winning Guitarist, Composer and Producer who has played guitar and produced on records for Teyana Taylor, Erykah Badu, Ro James, Andy Mineo, Brandy to name a few.



John H. Knox *Piano*

John, graduate of UC Berkeley School of Law, is a partner at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, specializing municipal restructuring and bankruptcy. He lives in Richmond with his family, including other Center alumni.



Kabreshiona Smith *Dance, Theater*

Bre is a dancer, teacher, entrepreneur, and deeply spiritual soul. Bre shares her love for nurturing body and soul by leading movement and dance classes, specializing in faith-based movement.



Vanessa Cajina *Trombone, Jazz*

Vanessa is a lobbyist for KP with extensive experience in state budget issues and expertise for issues pertaining to healthcare, social services, and non-profit organizations.



Quinn Monteiro *Drums*

Quinn is a drummer who has performed with groups, as well as soloed around the Bay Area. He has produced his own short film featuring his music.



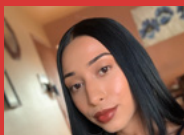
Andre Rivers *Theater*

Andre Rivers has his own production company, Dre Rivers Entertainment. He is an experienced event manager, sound engineer and show host, working a large variety of events.



Aisha Walls *Dance*

Aisha was inspired to get her Doctorate in Physical Therapy from UCSF/SFSU as a dancer. Aisha has worked with many established choreographers, taught dance, and is also a practicing physical therapist.



Saydi Castro *Dance, West African*

Saydi is a student at UC Davis, studying Animal Science. She is also working on launching an online clothing/fitness boutique with her sister.



Rosemary Gutierrez *Dance*

Rosemary is a receptionist at a veterinary hospital. Her greatest joy is being a mother to her little girl.



William Southall *Voice*

William goes to Berklee College of Music, where he studies songwriting, arranging and music technology. He also arranged music for his former high school's Acapella group, which was both performed and recorded.



Nigel Bess *Music*

Nigel graduated with a BS in Mechanical Engineering at UC Santa Barbara. He taught himself Ukulele and Computer Programming on the side and he's currently working as a software engineer in Santa Barbara.



Aliyah Morgan *Dance (hip-hop, African dance, modern)*

Aliyah is completing her undergraduate studies in Nursing and Public Health Relations. "When I was younger, I didn't know how to express myself emotionally so I danced it out, and I loved it."



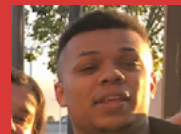
Perla Ponce *Theater, Film*

Perla is studying Biology with the goal of getting her PhD. She has completed an internship at the California Academy of Sciences, fieldwork in Baja California and helped translate a field guide into Spanish.



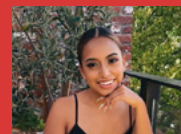
Kai Pierce *Piano, Voice*

Kai Pierce is a singer, songwriter, pianist. He started with East Bay Center when he was 11-years-old. Today, he is a singer and accompanist for the Oakland Interfaith Community Choir and a part of the group TheH!veM!nd.



Troy Richardson *Capoeira, Theater*

When he's not working as a restaurant chef in San Francisco, Troy loves to play and dance around with his daughter. In the future, he plans to join the U.S. military.



Julissa Garcia *Dance, Voices of Reason*

Julissa started at the Center when she was 3 and grew to become a teaching assistant. She has a BA in Psychology from UC Irvine and works as a behavior technician.



Allyson Flores *Piano, Flute, Voice*

Allyson was teaching assistant for the Musicianship class at the Center. She is attending UC Santa Cruz where she plans to receive her Master's in math through a 4+1 program.



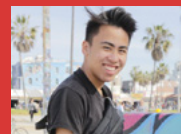
Briana Washington *Music*

Graduated Boston's Berklee College of Music, now teaching, music directing and performing. Released her first album in 2019 as "Miss. Washington." She worked on BET's Black Girls Rock and performed with Beyonce's original female band.



Britani Washington *Voice*

Britani graduated from Berklee College of Music in 2019 in Professional Music. She currently resides in Los Angeles, where she works at an entertainment management company and is pursuing her dreams in music.



Joshua Dandan *Violin*

Joshua was a member of Chamber Ensemble at the center and Concord Adult Symphony. He is a senior at St. Mary's College at California, studying Finance Data Analytics.



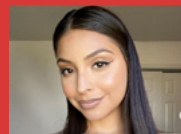
Franco Dandan *Music*

Franco Dandan began taking piano lessons from Hiyas Hila at the Center in 2010. He recently graduated from Berklee College of Music majoring in Contemporary Writing and Production with the Class of 2020.



Delphina Wedell *Music*

Delphina graduated from UC Berkeley's College of Environmental Design this year with a Bachelor of Art degree. She will be starting her internship in October in Porto, Portugal.



Nancy Murray-Garcia *Son de la Tierra, Theater*

Nancy is a freelance artist in both the cosmetic and regional music industries. She has an aesthetician license from Avalon School of Cosmetology.



Grace Signorelli-Cassady *Ballet*

Grace is an attorney who has represented criminal and civil clients and drafted numerous amicus curiae briefs that have been filed with the Supreme Court. She received her J.D. from Harvard Law School.



This list reflects the total donations for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020. East Bay Center is grateful for every donation received and we do apologize if we have inadvertently omitted anyone from this list.

\$25,000+

Anonymous Fund at the East Bay
Community Foundation
Anonymous Fund at the San Francisco
Foundation
Anonymous Fund at Vanguard Charitable
Barbara and Nigel Renton
Lisa Sardegna and David Carrillo
Tom and Barbara Sargent

\$10,000 - \$24,999

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John Clawson and Teri Behm
Ghost Light Fund
Bjarne and Shari Hansen
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\$5,000 - \$9,999

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\$1,000 - \$4,999

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 Matthew Duffy and Tamara Arroyo
 Tracy Flanagan and Rick Trautner
 Falcher Fusager
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 Carter West
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 Monte Wood
 Frank C. Worrell
 Nilas Young

\$250 - \$499

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 Toody Maher
 Tauseef Rahman
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 Robert L. and Mary Joan Zaletel



\$100 - \$249

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Sallian C. and John Umemoto
David Whitenack
Gail Wiemann
John and Monique Le Conge Ziesenhenn



\$1 - \$99

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Consuelo Lara

Michael Lerner and Sharlyle Patton

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Lt. Col. Joyce E. Muse

Wanyi Ng

Marsha O'Bannon

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Mike and Ruth Peritz

James and Joy Phoenix

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Lillie Pre-Jean

Carol Quink

Janice Schreiber and David Hudson

John G. and Terrie Simmons

John and Gwynne C. Tysell

Emily Vogler

Susan I. White

Destani Wolf

Rachael Wolf



This list reflects the total donations for the period of July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020.

100,000+

California Arts Council
Crankstart
The Elma Music Foundation
Fullerton Family Foundation
Hellman Foundation
William and Flora Hewlett Foundation
The Kresge Foundation
S.H. Cowell Foundation

50,000 -99,999

The California Endowment
City of Richmond
San Francisco Foundation

25,000-49,999

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East Bay Community Foundation
JPMorgan Chase & Co.

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Wayne and Gladys Valley Foundation

5,000-9,999

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Levin Richmond Terminal
Pacific Harmony Foundation
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2,500-4,999

Bill Graham Supporting Foundation
BNSF Railway Company
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Richard & Emily Levin Foundation

We would also like to acknowledge the matching employee gifts programs at the following corporations for their support:

Adobe, Akonadi Foundation, Amazon Smile, AT&T, Bank of America, Benevity, Chevron, Clorox, Dolby, Intuit, Kaiser Permanente, LPL Investors, Oracle, PG&E, Salesforce, Symantec, Tailored Brands, UPS, Walt Disney and Wells Fargo Bank.



in- kind donations

22

Ain't Normal Café

Alyssa Jones

Anaviv's Table

Angela Garcia

Ashia Derksen

Ashley Brown

Autodesk

Bonnie Wentworth

Brian Cooke

Brigid McCaw and William Finzer

Callahan Piano

Carolyn Walter

Casa Blanca Food Truck

Chimes Printing

Christine Coddling and Madeline Mixer

Clayton J. Mitchell Photography

Colleen Whitney and David Smith

Connie Harden

Craig Severance

David Cheng

East Brother Beer Company

Eddy Tamura

Edwin Bolds

Elinor Armer

Eric Kallins

Exploratorium

Four2Nine Wine Bar

Gay Timmons and Stephen Jarvis

Gaylen Stirton

Hotel Mac

Hotel Mac Diner

Ifshin Violins

James Romano

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Quinn Monteiro

R&B Cellars at Rigger's Loft

SAA/EVI

San Francisco Conservatory of Music

Sarah Young

Sol Food

Sprouts

Stephan Cohen

Tencue

Teodoro E. Eusebio

Thai Xpress

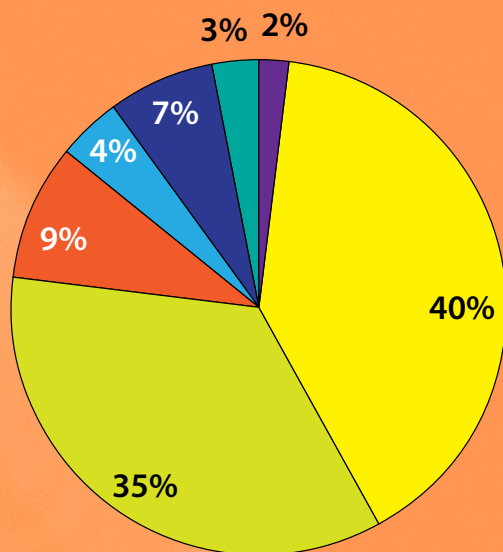
Tina Cuccia

Trader Joe's

Urban Remedy

Will Fleming

Your Way Pizza



Revenue Distribution

FYE 6 | 30 | 2020
TOTAL \$3,047,803

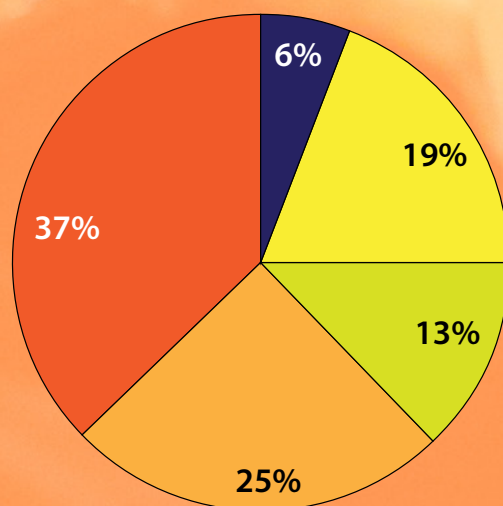
Revenue

Contributed Income (77%)

- Corporate 2%
\$69,877
- Individuals 40%
\$1,218,794
- Foundations & Government 35%
\$1,068,165

Earned Income (23%)

- Contracts 9%
\$267,842
- Tuition and Performance Fees 4%
\$109,534
- Distribution Income 7%
\$220,000
- Other Income 3%
\$93,591



Expense Distribution

FYE 6 | 30 | 2020
TOTAL \$2,943,494

Expenses

- Administration and General Operating Expenses 19%
\$549,094
- Fundraising and Communications 13%
\$394,886
- School and Neighborhood Partnerships 25%
\$731,106
- Young Artist Diploma Program, Main-site Training and Productions 37%
\$1,092,351
- Occupancy 6%
\$176,057

east bay center for the performing arts

339 11th St, Richmond, CA 94801

510.234.5624

eastbaycenter.org





Measure X Community Advisory Board Presentation: Agriculture Weights & Measures Equity in the Marketplace

**Matthew Slattengren
Jose Arriaga**

Agriculture Weights & Measures

MISSION STATEMENT

The Contra Costa County Department of Agriculture under the direction of the California Department of Food and Agriculture, Department of Pesticide Regulation, and Division of Measurement Standards, is responsible for conducting regulatory and service activities pertaining to the agricultural industry and the consumers of our county.

The primary purpose and objective of this office is the promotion and protection of the county's agricultural industry, environment, and citizens. We work hard to ensure a safe place to live and a fair marketplace for trade.

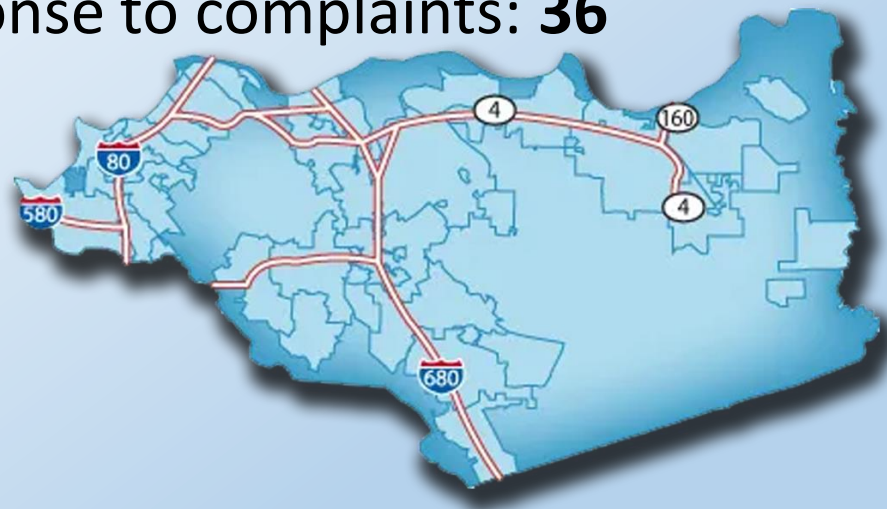
What Weights & Measures does for you

- Weighing devices
 - Scales
- Measuring Devices
 - Cordage and fabric
 - Taxi Meters
 - Liquid (Gas Pumps, Water, etc.)
 - Electric Charging Stations
 - Gases (LPG, Hydrogen, etc.)
- Quantity Control
 - Testing Scanners in stores
 - Label design/requirements/statements
 - Packaging fill



Contra Costa County By The Numbers FY 2020-21

- Number of residents: **1.2 Million**
- Number of businesses/locations registered: **2,034**
 - Number of Devices: **32,017**
 - Number of Point of Sale: **5,528**
- Number of inspections: **9,767**
 - Average frequency of inspections/device: **Once every 17.6 Months**
- Number of investigations/response to complaints: **36**
- Staff hours: **12,108**



Overview



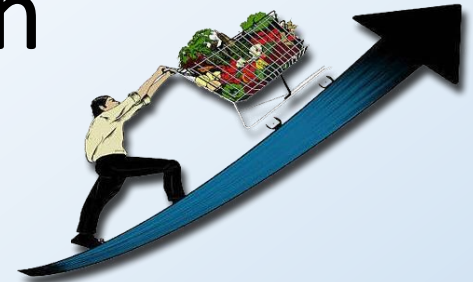
- Weights and Measures
 - Quantity Control Inspections
 - Scanner inspection cost are partially covered by a registration fee
 - The remainder is unfunded, only mandated to check on complaints
 - Legislative analysis found there is no fair way to collect fees for Quantity Control
 - Mostly local benefit
 - No other Weights & Measures programs are completely unfunded
 - Leaves consumers unprotected especially in lower income/disadvantaged communities
- Agriculture
 - Diverting Agricultural resources to cover mandated W&M work
 - With more Weights & Measures inspectors, we can focus more on pesticide use enforcement

Quantity Control Data

- Statewide average from 2013-2018
 - 13.53% of all test purchases were overcharges (36,589 purchases)
 - 1.5% of all scanner purchases were overcharges (2,127,420 purchases)
- 2019 Statewide survey by AgWM in low income/disadvantaged areas
 - 22.37% of 1,891 test purchases were overcharges (65% higher o/c rate)
 - 62.78% of stores overcharged with an average of \$0.27
 - 5.78% of 1,891 scanner purchases were overcharges (285% higher o/c rate)
 - 32.8% of stores with an average overcharge of \$1.63
 - 31.97% of pre packaged items inspected were overcharges
 - 62.14% of stores with an average overcharge of \$0.33



QC Data Comparison



- Quantity Control Program

- Contra Costa County does not have a Quantity Control program in place
 - Contra Costa had 44.8% (26 of 58 locations) of locations tested overcharged customers with an average of \$5.51 per item overcharged, the largest being a \$40.87 overcharge for a single purchase
- LA County is one of the few counties that supports Quantity Control inspections
 - LA County had 23.58% (25 of 106 locations) of locations tested overcharged customers with an average of \$4.97 per item overcharged, the largest being \$39.74 overcharge for a single purchase

Gaps

- Currently the only QC program in the county is for scanners
- No funding mechanism for package inspection or test purchases
- Funding mechanisms for mandated WM programs not sufficient
- Financial Gap:
 - Each inspector's salary starts around \$100,000 with benefits
 - Their top salary with benefits is about \$160,000



Prevention - what more can be done to help residents

Fund 2 new permanent FTEs WM inspectors

- New inspectors will
 - Allow us to meet all mandated work
 - Do a significant amount of Quantity Control work
 - Will free up Ag inspectors to conduct more Pesticide and Fieldworker safety inspections



Community Impact



- Need more inspections to ensure consumers are not being cheated
- Protect low income/disadvantaged communities
- Proportional impact – overcharging \$1 to a low income family is the same as \$4 in median income and \$10 in above average communities
- Additionally the poor face “inflation inequities” lacking volume buying power afforded to most consumers and layering their economic plight with an annual rate of inflation at 0.44 percentage points higher than that of higher income families
- Protect businesses who are playing by the rules



What does Success look like

- Eliminating the inequity in commerce for low income/disadvantaged communities in the county
- Bringing the percentage of overcharged customers down in the county as a whole
- Making the marketplace fair and equitable



Questions?

(925) 608-6600

AGCommissioner@ag.cccounty.us

matt.slattengren@ag.cccounty.us

Jose.arriaga@ag.cccounty.us

Thank you!

Lisa Driscoll

From: karenlile@comteams.com
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 3:32 PM
To: Lisa Driscoll
Subject: [BULK] New Recording 44
Attachments: New Recording 44.m4a

I have shared a written and voice memo. Use whichever suits you.

Please support the Arts with Measure X for our county! Artists:

- Build our real estate values, by making us unique and attractive
- Show our youth their talents will be valued
- Ease community tensions by expressing symbolic shared sentiments
- Are an important part of our economy
- Give intellectual stimulation to all

and more

Karen E Lile
1708 Walnut St
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Sent from my iPhone

July 23, 2021

Dear Measure X Advisory Board,

While I still may be able to sing the paint of the walls, I now use my voice to lift others up and amplify their voices. As a Arts and Culture Commissioner in District 2, I have a background in the performing arts, education, and a degree in communication with a foundation of social justice. I have a heart for service and civic engagement. Like many of you, I'm a dedicated volunteer. Securing funds from Measure X to invest in the people for access and experiences in arts and culture would give the Arts and Culture Commission a sustainable foundation to solidify the programs the commission currently supports-- and the hope needed to grow for the future.

I am advocating that funds be secured and earmarked to invest in programs that are already interwoven into the fabric of the commission that currently need funding:

- YOUTH ADVISOR. A Contra Costa County first! I'm proud to be the champion for this position and have created the framework for this role. Our current Youth Advisor spent \$600 out of her own pocket for the creation of Social Justice Murals that high school students collaborated on. Please fund this program so our youth can not only create a project like this for our county, but so, in the name of equity, we can expand this program to every district.
- ABOUT FACE. Offered to Veterans in Contra Costa County. A series of FREE self-portrait painting classes. The grant for this program just ended and there are no funds for it.
- POETRY OUTLOUD. A national recitation contest open to high school students.
- ARTS RECOGNITION AWARDS. An event that recognizes those who have made a significant artistic or philanthropic contribution to Contra Costa's Arts and Culture every other year.
- ARTS PASSAGES. Exhibitions showcase artists, arts organizations throughout the county.
- STAFF. We currently have one part time staff member. In order to grow in services, please compensate people for full time.
- Ensuring representation through the lens of equity in geographic, racial and ethnic tapestry that mirrors the County's diversity including by not only those at risk, vulnerable populations, people of color, foster, homeless, intergenerational, LGBTQ+, Public School, Home School, incarcerated, etc.
- Building Partnerships through the Arts Directory

Thank you for your consideration,

Beverly Kumar

Arts and Culture Commissioner of Contra Costa County

Beverly@BeverlyKumar.com

Lisa Driscoll

From: Charles Taylor <cmtecca2@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 17, 2021 9:12 AM
To: Lisa Driscoll
Subject: Measure X Funds for Increased Library Hours

Dear Ms. Driscoll,

I am writing to express my support for using funding from Measure X in Contra Costa County to increase library hours county-wide to 56 hours per week.

I am a resident of El Cerrito and a strong supporter of the library as an integral part of the social and economic framework of our city and our county. Libraries are an important place of learning for people of all ages, small children through the end of life. They provide resources, access, information, contacts through the internet, and much more. They are social gathering places for poetry readings, for discussions, for quiet study, a space away from home to sit and think, places to look for work or colleagues. For many of the least advantaged among us, libraries offer a free place to get email, submit job applications, look for housing, find advice videos or books.

Taking advantage of these opportunities hinges on access which hinges on the libraries being open. The funds from Measure X will extend the hours for people in search of ways to improve themselves in the ways mentioned above and more. It is the right thing to do to help with a type of reparations in acknowledging the wrongs of the past and opening the opportunities for people to advance as well as just to participate in the world that is cut off without the library they belong to being open as much as possible.

I hope that you advance this cause to the advisory board for Measure X and that you are successful in doing so.

Sincerely,

Charles Taylor

Lisa Driscoll

From: S.Z. Obayashi <s_obayashi@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 18, 2021 4:08 PM
To: Lisa Driscoll
Subject: Measure X Funds - El Cerrito Library

I would like to inform the Measure X Advisory Board of my support of the proposal by County Librarian , Alison McKee, to utilize Measure X funding for 56 hours per week for library operation.

The library is an important resource for residents of all ages, abilities, and interests, as one can pursue educational and vocational knowledge, meet interesting people, expand one's own interests and be exposed to new ones.

I have been an El Cerrito resident for over 60 years, moving here from Berkeley, CA at the age of 1 year old. The library is one of the services I have enjoyed and used consistently, and hope to use into my super-senior years here in Contra Costa County.

Thank you for your time and service to our county.

Sincerely,

Susan Obayashi

2097 Tapscott Ave.
El Cerrito, CA 94530

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-
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Lisa Driscoll

From: Al Miller <amil@sonic.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 12:06 AM
To: Lisa Driscoll
Subject: Public Comment on County Librarian McKee's proposal

Our County Librarian Alison McKee will be appearing before the CCC Measure X Advisory Board on July 28 to present a proposal to utilize some of the Measure X funds to provide for an increase in County provided hours of library operation county-wide to 56 hours a week at each branch, at County expense.

I am sending this public comment to express the El Cerrito Library Foundation's strong, enthusiastic support for County Librarian Alison McKee's proposal.

Outside of the recent increase of library hour support for branch libraries from 35 to 40 hours per week, the County's support for branch operation remained at 35 for way too long. The El Cerrito Library provides Internet access, computer access, literacy and English language improvement programs, to a large number of people who in recent years have had to work two jobs to provide for their families. The increase to 56 hours per week would add more hours at times when these people could use these services.

This proposed increase in library hours would also be in line with the Board of Supervisors values of equity and inclusion in all services provided by the County.

Thank you.

Al Miller,

President, El Cerrito Library Foundation.

CITY OF CONCORD
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
1950 Parkside Drive
Concord, California 94520-4805
Telephone: (925) 671-3158
FAX: (925) 798-0636



CITY COUNCIL
Tim A. McGallian, Mayor
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Edi E. Birsan
Laura M. Hoffmeister
Carlyn S. Obringer

Patti Barsotti, City Treasurer
Valerie J. Barone, City Manager

July 20, 2021

Lisa Driscoll
County Finance Director
Contra Costa County
1025 Escobar Street, 4th Floor
Martinez, CA 94553

RE: Measure X Funding for Increasing Library Hours

Dear Ms. Driscoll,

The City of Concord would like to express our strong support for Measure X funding to go toward increasing equitable access to the library by raising hours for all libraries to 56 hours per week and hiring the necessary staff to support

Increased hours will create more convenient access for all Concord citizens, particularly underserved residents that depend on the Library for internet access, adult literacy and workforce development programs, all at county expense.

For these reasons, the City of Concord wholeheartedly supports funding from Measure X to increase hours for all libraries.

Sincerely,

Timothy McGallian
Mayor
City of Concord

cc: City Council
Supervisor Karen Mitchoff
Valerie Barone, City Manager
Susanne Brown, City Attorney
Joelle Fockler, City Clerk
Niccolo De Luca, Townsend Public Affairs
Walter Beveridge, County Library Executive Secretary

Lisa Driscoll

From: Michael Cluster <mjcluster@earthlink.net>
Sent: Tuesday, July 20, 2021 2:05 PM
To: Lisa Driscoll
Cc: Walter Beveridge
Subject: measure X funds for library

Dear Lisa & Advisory Board,

Please allocate Measure X funds to expand library hours at all the branches of the county library to 56 hours. The library provides both educational materials as well as computer access to citizens of all ages and incomes, including those who may have no other access and hosts childrens programs and other community services.

Thank you,

Mike Cluster
3593 Halifax Way
Concord Ca 94520

20 July 2021

Ms. Mariana Moore, Chair, Measure X Community Advisory Board
c/o Lisa Driscoll, Contra Costa County Finance Director

I am writing to endorse the Contra Costa County Librarian's appeal to the Measure X Community Advisory Board to allocate funding that will provide enhanced stability and equity to our county's residents. Support for the library system's initiative would signal a firm commitment to fulfilling the county's equity goals, across multiple sectors, and to prioritizing inclusion as a principle of community organization.

I applied for and was appointed as District 1 Library Commissioner by Supervisor Gioia due to my passion for prioritizing the needs of our underserved community members. Measure X provides an important opportunity to enact that mission.

The Contra Costa County Library's per capita operating income falls woefully short of the median for libraries statewide, and particularly that of other Bay Area county libraries. Our system receives funding equivalent to 1.5% of 1% of property tax for all properties (aside from those in the city of Richmond, which operates its own library system). This amount accounts for just .97% of the county's current budget. Currently, the cost of additional operational hours beyond the county-funded minimum threshold is borne by cities, as is facilities maintenance. While *some* of our county's cities and their libraries' respective friends' groups and foundations can pitch in substantively to fill in the opportunity and equity gaps produced by this scant level of support—in services, programming, open hours, facilities maintenance, etc.—many others simply cannot. This also applies to libraries in unincorporated areas, such as El Sobrante, Kensington (both within District 1), and Bay Point (located in District 5) that do not have a potential city funding base from which to draw. The resulting picture is wildly disparate. To illustrate this point, the four cities with the greatest number of city-funded library hours at present are those with the highest household income. During a recent county needs assessment, one community member put this blunt reality in stark perspective: *"Fix your system. The libraries in the different communities could not be a more blatant illustration of the divide between 'haves and have-nots' in this county. Poor kids see that what the county thinks they deserve are understaffed libraries and ratty books, libraries that are closed more than they're opened. Rich neighborhoods meanwhile get the best of the best. Is that what libraries are supposed to be about?"*

In other words, the current funding model and allocation reflects, contributes to, and even exacerbates our county's inequities. ***We can and we must do better.***

The existing state of our county's library funding does not serve all community members, and it certainly does not serve them all equally. The significant revenue expected from the Measure X initiative has the potential to level the playing field for our various branches and to infuse our library system's delivery of equitable services and contributions to impactful outcomes with real backbone. It would directly support facility upgrades (which are desperately needed in many of the libraries located in impacted communities), staffing, collection development, and operational support. Specifically, the measure could enact the following: funding for across-the-board 56 hour open hours at ***all*** branches, improved facilities, increased collections, additional services, more outreach opportunities, safe spaces for teens to congregate after school, and better wraparound support for families and residents, particularly in underserved communities.

We are undoubtedly experiencing a widening gap between the have's and the have-not's, particularly in the Bay Area. County Librarian McKee's Measure X proposal can ameliorate some of the impacts of that trend. There are so many forces that are beyond the control of local municipalities. ***This is not one of them.*** Measure X provides a direct portal to greater equity and excellent services for ***all*** of our county's residents. The measure is not directly tied to nor a result of our state's unprecedented 2021 budget surplus, but it is certainly part of the larger picture: an opportunity to address and ***redress*** some of the massive disparities—both their causes and effects—in our region's healthcare, education, housing, public safety, economic, and environmental sectors, among others.


In November 2020, Contra Costa County voters passed Measure X to fund essential services including the regional hospital, community health centers, emergency response, safety-net services, early childhood services, and other community services. The County Librarian's request is fully consistent with the purposes of Measure X, especially the following key targets:

- Support crucial safety-net services
- Invest in early childhood services
- Protect vulnerable populations
- Fund other essential services

Our public libraries are the institutions where ideals like equal and free access acquire animus and meaning and where a region's diversity can be truly reflected and enacted. They are one of the most vital spaces of civic involvement and intellectual freedom in a democratic state. But they have increasingly become part of the social safety net for many populations, especially our most vulnerable community members. There is no doubt that we need more vigorous and inclusive community services, and there is no doubt that this funding boost can help make that happen. Measure X funds are explicitly targeted to address these prevailing social issues.

Please endorse our County Librarian's request for Measure X allocation. Thank you for your consideration.

Warmly,



Rachel Rosekind, PhD
Contra Costa County Library District 1 Commissioner

Cc: Supervisor John Gioia



July 21, 2021

Dear Measure X Community Advisory Board Members:

As the Mayor of El Cerrito, I am writing in support of Measure X funds that could provide for an expanded county library budget and directly support the increase in hours of operation, staffing and collection development. I believe this request easily follows the purposes of the key targets for Measure X in Contra Costa County by:

- supporting crucial safety-net services;
- investing in early childhood services;
- protecting vulnerable populations; and
- funding other essential services.

And, like the other recent recommendation made to the Advisory Board by the El Cerrito City Council to fund the Community Crisis Initiative, I believe also requesting assistance for our growing county library needs would help rectify local equity concerns in many cities, like El Cerrito, which may be experiencing difficult financial circumstances at this time.

The Contra Costa County Library's per capita operating income falls woefully short of the median for libraries statewide, and particularly that of other Bay Area County libraries. Currently, the cost of additional operational hours and facilities maintenance beyond the county-funded minimum threshold is borne by cities like El Cerrito.

While *some* of our county's cities and their libraries' respective friends' groups and foundations can pitch in substantively to fill in the opportunity and equity gaps produced by this scant level of support— such funding becomes a contentious community debate in a city under extreme financial constraints.

Because of physical limitations of the building in its present location, additional Measure X funds cannot at this time add hours or personnel to the existing El Cerrito library. But such funding could free up local funding for other critical city needs. And, should ongoing Measure X funds be established for county libraries, it would assist El Cerrito's efforts to plan, finance, build and operate a new library facility. In addition to possible state and federal funds, I believe an ongoing commitment for additional county funds could importantly assist in establishing a much improved and safer library experience for El Cerritans and neighboring residents.

Thank you for your consideration using Measure X funding for this worthy county cause.

Sincerely,

Paul Fadelli
Mayor, City of El Cerrito

CC: El Cerrito Council Members, Michael Alan Fischer, Supervisor John Gioia, Contra Costa County Librarian

July 22, 2021



E-TRANSMITTAL/ U.S. REGULAR MAIL

Ms. Mariana Moore, Chair
Measure X Community Advisory Board
County Administrator's Office (CAO)
1025 Escobar Street, 4th Floor
Martinez, CA 94553

RE: MEASURE X FUNDING ALLOCATION SUPPORT FOR THE CONTRA COSTA COUNTY LIBRARY BUDGET

Dear Chair Moore and Members of the Measure X Community Advisory Board:

On behalf of the San Pablo City Council, I am writing to urge you to recommend allocating an appropriate proportion of Measure X funding to provide for an expanded Contra Costa County Library Budget. In San Pablo, our ongoing partnership with Contra Costa County Library Services has been vital in providing critical and much needed services in our community.

Any Measure X allocation would directly support a County-wide increase to **56 hours for all County Library** branches, facility upgrades (which are desperately needed in many of our county's libraries, particularly those located in impacted communities), staffing, collection development, and operational support.

The County Librarian's request is fully consistent with the purposes of Measure X, especially the following key targets:

- Support crucial safety-net services
- Invest in early childhood services
- Protect vulnerable populations
- Fund other essential services

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed and exacerbated many of the divides that increasingly define our region. During the year-long closure, our County Library staff demonstrated how vital their services are to our community members, particularly those who are under-resourced and overburdened. They handed out free lunches and produce, mobile hotspots, literacy materials, and craft kits; delivered books to homebound community members; conducted robust online programming; assisted patrons with unemployment, EBT benefits, tutoring services, and accessing other crucial safety net services—the list goes on and on.

The Contra Costa County Library's per capita operating income falls significantly short of the median for libraries state-wide, and particularly that of other Bay Area County Libraries. Our County Library system receives funding equivalent to 1.5% of 1% of property tax for all properties (aside from those in the city of Richmond, which operates its own library system). This amount accounts for just 0.97% of the County's current operating GF budget.

Currently, the cost of additional operational hours beyond the County-funded minimum threshold is borne by local cities, like San Pablo, as well as facilities maintenance. While *some* of our County's cities and their libraries' have library support groups and foundations that contribute substantively to fill in the equity gaps produced by minimum level of support in services, programming, open hours, facilities maintenance, etc. There are many others who simply cannot. This also applies to County libraries in unincorporated areas, such as El Sobrante, Kensington (both within District 1), and Bay Point (located in District 5) that do not have a potential local City base from which to draw. The resulting picture is wildly disparate. In other words, the current funding model and allocation reflects, contributes to, and even exacerbates our county's inequities. ***We can and we must do better for our County's system of libraries.***

The significant revenue expected from the Measure X Sales Tax Measure (estimated at \$81M/year) has the potential to level the playing field and to infuse our County Library system's delivery of equitable services and contributions to impactful outcomes with real backbone. Measure X is an unprecedented opportunity to address and ***redress*** some of the massive disparities— both their causes and effects—in our region's healthcare, education, housing, public safety, economic, and environmental sectors, among others. Local libraries are one of the most vital spaces of civic involvement and education, literacy promotion, and intellectual freedom in a democratic state, and they have increasingly become part of the social safety net for many populations, especially our most vulnerable populations.

There is no doubt that we need more vigorous and inclusive community services, and there is no doubt that this funding boost can assist in this endeavor. I understand that the County Library's funding request is one competing interest among a number of other competing interests you are considering for overall Measure X funding allocation. However, I hope you can see how capably it responds to the core imperatives of the Measure X sales tax funding measure.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Elizabeth Pabon-Alvarado, Mayor
City of San Pablo

cc: County Supervisor John Gioia, First District (John.Gioia@bos.cccounty.us)
Monica Nino, County CAO (Monica.Nino@cao.cccounty.us)
Lisa Driscoll, County Finance Director (Lisa.Driscoll@cao.cccounty.us)
Allison McKee, Contra Costa County Librarian (Alison.Mckee@library.cccounty.us)

San Pablo City Council
City Manager
City Attorney

Presentation of Michael A. Fischer in support of County Librarian Alison McKee's request for Measure X Funds

eclibrarycommissioner@gmail.com

I am the El Cerrito Designated Library Commissioner for Contra Costa County. This email is written in my personal capacity and does not represent the view of the Contra Costa County Library Commission. This letter is written in support of County Librarian Alison McKee's request for the the Measure X Advisory Board to include increased library hours in its list of recommended funding proposals using Measure X funds.

I also write this as one of the unofficial leaders of the El Cerrito area library community which includes patrons of our branch library from El Cerrito and surrounding areas including both incorporated and unincorporated areas of Richmond. It is my duty to obsess about library issues including such things as library hours.

I note that the El Cerrito City Council, which appointed me, passed a motion in June authorizing support of Measure X funding to support the Contra Costa County Community Crisis Initiative. I do not believe that these two requests are in conflict. Indeed, they both are worthy of funding. The fact that the mayor and members of the

City Council support both requests indicates that they agree.

The County Librarian's request is fully consistent with the purposes of Measure X. As the Advisory Board knows, the funding provided by that measure is to be used for the following:

- Keep Contra Costa's regional hospital open and staffed;
- Fund community health centers;
- Provide timely fire and emergency response;
- Support crucial safety-net services;
- Invest in early childhood services;
- Protect vulnerable populations; and
- Fund other essential services.

The request for additional library hours clearly falls within the last four items to be addressed by Measure X and which are underlined above.

The City of El Cerrito strongly believes that funding for robust library hours is a critically important equity issue. That's why they voted, last month, in the midst of a significant fiscal crisis, to provide city funding for library hours in addition to the county provided minimum hours. They took this action because under the present system that is the only way to have additional hours.

So, how are the hours a library is open an equity issue, providing crucial safety-net services to vulnerable populations and investing in early childhood services? Let's start by exploring the services our libraries offer and then examine the effect of library hours on these services.

Important Library Services

1. Broadband Access and Usage

As United States Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer has noted on several occasions, broadband access to the internet today is what access to electricity was in the 1930s. It is essential for receiving many governmental services. We all remember earlier this year when the best way, indeed often the only real way, to get an appointment for a life-critical coronavirus vaccination was through internet access. This is only one of innumerable ways one needs the internet today. It is not a luxury. Broadband access to the internet has become a utility, a necessity to everyday life. David Lazarus, the business columnist for the Los Angeles Times has discussed this here: <https://www.latimes.com/business/story/2020-10-23/coronavirus-internet-is-a-utility>.

Indeed, the State Budget this year contains several billion dollars to provide improved internet access and the Federal Jobs Act is expected to provide significant funds as well. But the reality is that some of our residents will not be able to afford this even if it is available, and even if it is subsidized. The costs of the equipment and the monthly access charge can be significant. And for some, our libraries also provide the information needed to allow them to access the internet. Without the means to afford the equipment, or without the knowledge of how to connect, a fiber cable means nothing. Our libraries provide internet access through their wifi signals, through the public access computers that are in each library, and by means of offering assistance to those who need it to connect.

One of the biggest issues that the global coronavirus pandemic has shown is the digital divide. People, especially the economically disadvantaged and underserved populations, need the internet to access services and get information about jobs and training. These needs have been exacerbated by the pandemic but they existed before and will remain once the pandemic is over.

There is hard statistical evidence from the El Cerrito library that shows the need for this internet access. In

2018, the El Cerrito City Council voted to fund increased library hours from the 35 hours per week then provided by the county to 50 hours per week — about a 43% increase in the time the library was open. By contrast the internet usage on the library's public access computers increased over 100% at a time when countywide the internet usage remained flat. Increasing library hours resulted in a two for one increase in internet access. The obvious conclusion from this is that the new hours not only provided more time for traditionally underserved people to be able to access the internet, but it provided that at times that were more available to those users.

How serious is the lack of access to the internet? According to the none-too-good and probably significantly understated data available from the FCC, 28% of our fellow Contra Costans lack broadband access. And what does this cohort look like — they are overwhelmingly poor, people of color, and seniors.

2. Aid to People Experiencing Homelessness

Then 2020 Contra Costa Annual Point in Time Count (<https://cchealth.org/h3/coc/pdf/PIT-report-2020.pdf>) was taken on January 22, 2020 and showed that on that date there were 2,277 people experiencing homelessness in our county, 1,570 were unsheltered, and 707 were

sheltered. Seven percent were minors and 16% were seniors. This survey took place before the global coronavirus pandemic which surely has exacerbated the situation.

Those experiencing homelessness are significantly people of color: 23% are Latinx; 29% are Black; 8% are Native American.

How do libraries serve people experiencing homelessness. A library represents a place where a person can find out about training and jobs and apply for some of them; find out about shelters and other governmental services; and get all sorts of other assistance those of us privileged to have homes take for granted. Libraries also provide a respite, a place where a person can be free from the noise and disruption of life on the streets.

3. Education at all age levels

Libraries provide an important educational service. Story time provides an introduction to very young children to the wonder that is in books, creating in them a desire to read which is so essential to success in our society. The “read to a dog” program provides young readers with the confidence they need to become proficient readers. And “Project Second Chance” teaches literacy to adults

throughout the county, including a person who wants to be able to read and complete a job application and a grandparent who wants to be able to read to their grandchild.

A study issued in July of this year by the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago examined the effect of public library investment (in this case involving capital improvements) on student achievement measured by test scores (<https://www.edworkingpapers.com/sites/default/files/ai21-386.pdf>). The study found that investments in libraries resulted in an increase in the students' reading scores while it had no effect on their math scores. This is consistent with the emphasis on reading and books that remains the heart of our libraries' mission.

Other programs the libraries offer include tutoring to students. Economically disadvantaged parents need these services which can be self-financed by those with greater resources.

4. Climate change

Libraries also provide a respite to our most vulnerable population to effects of climate change. A poor person is, even if housed, less likely to have air filters and air conditioning. But many of our libraries do have them. So

when the weather is extremely hot, or when the air is smokey because of fires, a library represents a place when one can breathe cooler and cleaner air courtesy of the HVAC system of the library.

How Our Libraries Are Funded

Our county library system, bluntly put, favors richer communities simply based on its organization. Whether this is the intention of the system is not the issue; this is the effect. It is not unique among library systems but it is the system on which we can have some effect. So we have to do whatever we can to work against this aspect of the system.

The structure of the library system is that of a joint enterprise between the county and nearly all its cities. (For historical reasons the City of Richmond has an independent library system.) Each city provides the building for a library and its maintenance. (In certain unincorporated areas the county provides the building.) The county provides the collection for that library branch, the administration and equipment, and enough personnel to have the library open 40 hours a week. If a cities wishes to, it can pay the county to keep the library open for additional hours. This works out to schedules like this:

- Under the 40 hour plan, a library will be closed Sunday and Monday and only open past 6 pm on Tuesday.
- Under the 46 hour plan, a library will be closed the same two days but open past 6 pm on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.
- Under the 52 hour plan a library is only closed on Sunday and is open past 6 pm on Monday and Tuesday.
- Under the 56 hour plan a library is only closed on Sunday and is open past 6 pm on Monday through Thursday.

It should come as no surprise, as shown in the County Librarian's presentation, that the four cities which have their libraries open 56 hours a week are the four cities with the largest household income in the county. This is the antithesis of equity.

Comparing the per person expenditures on the library by the county versus our surrounding counties, based on the numbers in the County Librarian's report, shows Contra Costa clearly at the bottom of such spending. The following figures show the percentage above the Contra Costa County expenditure in these counties:

Alameda:	+ 51%
Solano:	+ 70%
Napa:	+137%
Marin	+273%

This is not the first time this inequity and disparity has been pointed out. In 2016, the Contra Costa County Library Commission noted, in a publication titled *Promoting Excellence in Library Service in Contra Costa County*: “[T]he Library’s funding model ... puts some community libraries at a distinct disadvantage in comparison to their peer libraries located within the county’s wealthier community.Our primary conclusions are that funding for the Library is not adequate ... and that **inequities in Library services** continue despite the expressed need for the Library to reach out to underserved populations.”

In 2016 the money to correct this hugely inequitable wrong arguably wasn’t available. But whatever the justification for this arrangement in the past, the existence of Measure X money to fix it makes the change imperative.

Conclusion: What a Difference Hours Make

Libraries means different things to different people. They do serve a variety of needs. And the hours a library is open have different effects on different people.

As a Library Commissioner, I sometimes get asked whether we even need to have physical library buildings anymore. Perhaps this is true to a person:

- Who can afford to be and is often online from their home;
- Who owns a computer or tablet that serves as an electronic book reader;
- Who chooses not to participate in the rich variety of free programs each library offers its patrons (only a few of which have been mentioned here)

But to others — especially people of color, poor people, and seniors — the various services a library provides that are highlighted above are essential to their physical, emotional, and intellectual needs. To these people, (and they are the people who are most intended to be assisted by Measure X funds) libraries serve as what is sometimes called a “second responder” role: (<https://www.theatlantic.com/notes/2019/05/when-libraries-are-second-responders/590098/>)

The services to our most needy that are provided by our libraries all share one common aspect. They are only available to a patron when they can come to the library at a time the library is open. Like an umbrella, a library doesn't work for them when it is closed.

There is one additional advantage to the proposal by the County Librarian. It is truly a win-win proposal for all Contra Costans. To see this you only need to go visit one of our libraries. Libraries rank as one of the most popular functions of our government across the population.

People using our libraries are as diverse as our county. In the words of former California Poet Laureate Dana Gioia, libraries are the one place in a community where everyone feels safe and welcome. As shown above, they fill many needs of our most vulnerable. And Contra Costans deserve to have a robust access to them.



July 22, 2021

Dear Measure X Community Advisory Board Members:

As a Councilmember for the City of El Cerrito, I am writing in support of Measure X funds that could provide for an expanded county library budget and directly support the increase in hours of operation, staffing and collection development. I believe this request easily follows the purposes of the key targets for Measure X in Contra Costa County by:

- supporting crucial safety-net services;
- investing in early childhood services;
- protecting vulnerable populations; and
- funding other essential services.

And, like the other recent recommendation made to the Advisory Board by the El Cerrito City Council to fund the Community Crisis Initiative, I believe also requesting assistance for our growing county library needs would help rectify local equity concerns in many cities, like El Cerrito, which may be experiencing difficult financial circumstances at this time.

The Contra Costa County Library's per capita operating income falls woefully short of the median for libraries statewide, and particularly that of other Bay Area County libraries. El Cerrito has stepped up to add some additional hours but at the cost of other services and needs, amid very contentious community debate.

Equitable funding from Measure X will help to provide additional service hours where they are most needed and help to close the equity gap where wealthier cities can rely on well-funded community donations to enhance their library programs.

Additional Measure X funds for El Cerrito would offset our local funds for other critical city needs while we plan to rebuild and create a modern library to meet the needs of El Cerrito and the surrounding communities. Should ongoing Measure X funds be established for county libraries, it would assist our efforts for a new library facility. In addition to possible state and federal funds, I believe an ongoing commitment for additional county funds could importantly assist in establishing a much improved and safer library experience for all our county residents.

Thank you for your consideration using Measure X funding for this worthy county cause.

Sincerely,

Lisa Motoyama
Councilmember, City of El Cerrito

CC: El Cerrito Council Members, Michael Alan Fischer, Supervisor John Gioia, Contra Costa County Librarian



July 22, 2021

Dear Measure X Community Advisory Board:

As a councilmember of the City of El Cerrito, I to urge you recommend allocating an appropriate proportion of Measure X funds to provide for additional Page 5 of 7 county-paid library hours. This request is consistent with four of the stated purposes of Measure X:

- Support crucial safety-net services
- Invest in early childhood services
- Protect vulnerable populations
- Fund other essential services

The Covid-19 pandemic has exposed clearly to all the digital divide between rich and poor and the increasing important of internet access. This is one of the reasons that, even amid a significant city fiscal crisis, our council voted 4-1 to provide funding for additional library hours so that those without other means to access the interest could still do so.

Of course, our libraries also provide other important services such as promoting reading skills in young children and providing literacy education to adults. The libraries are a valuable resource of information about the pandemic. And libraries provide an important respite to those experiencing homelessness both from life on the street and the increasing ill effects of climate change.

The current system of minimal library hours provided by the county with the burden to provide adequate library hours falling on the cities results in those cities with higher household income often being able to afford this cost while other cities cannot. This is not equitable and is the very thing Measure X was designed to help alleviate.

The City of El Cerrito has recently written you requesting that you also recommend funding for the Community Crisis Initiative. I understand that you will be providing recommendations for funding several items and our request on library hours is not meant to be in opposition to the Community Crisis Initiative.

City of El Cerrito
Re: Measure X and Library Funding
Page 2 of 2

I urge you as the Measure X Community Advisory Board to support both the Community Crisis Initiative and increased county funded library hours. These items are just what Measure X was intended to support, especially since all members of our county and all communities will benefit.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tessa Rudnick', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Tessa Rudnick
Councilmember, City of El Cerrito

CC: El Cerrito Council Members, Michael Alan Fischer, Supervisor John Gioia,
Contra Costa County Librarian



City of Pittsburg

65 Civic Avenue • Pittsburg, California 94565

July 23, 2021

Mariana Moore, Chair
Measure X Community Advisory Board
County Administrator's Office
1025 Escobar Street, 4th Floor
Martinez, CA 94553

As Mayor of the City of Pittsburg, and on behalf of the Pittsburg City Council, I am writing to endorse the County Librarian's proposal to extend the hours at each library in the County using Measure X funds. County libraries are so important for the community. Libraries provide access to wi-fi, computers, books, magazines, newspapers, and a wealth of educational programs.

For Pittsburg, the expanded hours will provide Monday through Saturday library services. The extra day and additional hours can be utilized by all within this wonderfully diverse community. Many of the users at the Pittsburg Library are students who work full-time to help support their families and themselves.

This request is consistent with four of the stated purposes of Measure X:

- Support crucial safety-net services
- Invest in early childhood services
- Protect vulnerable populations
- Fund other essential services

We urge you as the Measure X Community Advisory Board to support this effort as well. Using Measure X funding to support the expansion of community library hours to all residents of Contra Costa County ensures that no one is excluded from the internet, information, and learning. This work is what Measure X was intended to support. In addition, we hope that the County Board of Supervisors also recognizes the opportunity to provide more library services once the matter comes before them.

Sincerely,

Merl Craft
Mayor
City of Pittsburg

cc: City Council
Supervisor Federal Glover
Garrett Evans, City Manager
Monica Nino, County Administrator
Alice Evenson, City Clerk

Lisa Driscoll, Contra Costa County
Alison McKee, County Librarian
Peter Wilson, Library Commission
Zelda LaFrak-Belleci, Library Commission
Donna Mooney, City Attorney

Lisa Driscoll

From: Tommy Smith <tlsmith2010@live.com>
Sent: Wednesday, July 21, 2021 8:35 PM
To: Lisa Driscoll
Cc: Alison McKee; Walter Beveridge
Subject: Measure X funds for Equitable Library Access

To the Members of the Measure X Citizen's Advisory Board,

I am writing in support of the proposal by County Librarian Alison McKee to allocate a proportion of Measure X funds for additional county-paid library hours.

This proposal aligns with the intent of Measure X in supporting safety-net services; early childhood education, and protecting vulnerable populations. Our libraries provide essential services in literacy for children and adults. Libraries are key in bridging the digital divide by providing free internet access. Libraries provide relief as cooling stations, increasingly necessary as we suffer the effects of climate change. Our Concord library even provides nutritional and wellness support for youth with free lunches and programs on diet and exercise.

The funding proposal will establish standardized and equitable library hours countywide, eliminating the disparities in access to this vital public institution that are exasperated by the current funding model. Equal hours will ensure equal access and increase the availability of the library's literacy programs, free digital access and other community services for all.

We urge your support for increased county funded library hours.

Sincerely yours,

Tommy Smith, Library Commissioner, City of Concord

Sent from my iPad

July 23, 2021

Mariana Moore, Chair
Measure X Community Advisory Board
County Administrator's Office
1025 Escobar Street, 4th Floor
Martinez, CA 94553

Dear Chair Moore and Measure X Board Members:

I write in support of Contra Costa County Librarian Alison McKee's request for the allocation of funds to support increased open hours for the libraries in our County.

By way of background, I have been a member of the Library Commission for six years, first as Supervisor Mitchoff's appointment when I resided in Walnut Creek and now that I live in Pittsburg, Supervisor Glover's appointment. I have been the Commission's Vice-Chair and am now its Chair.

Thus, I write this endorsement with substantial experience with our Library, and its needs, priorities and resources, and from the perspective of a person who has lived in two distinctly different areas of the County. A comparison between these two areas, between Walnut Creek and Pittsburg, clearly demonstrates the inequities that exist within our County, inequities that are highlighted by the libraries in each. The Librarian's Measure X proposal is designed in a very clear-cut fashion to address these inequities.

As the Contra Costa County Library Commission observed in its 2016 study, **Promoting Excellence in Library Service in Contra Costa County**,

[T]he Library's funding model ... puts some community libraries at a distinct disadvantage in comparison to their peer libraries located within the county's wealthier community.... Our primary conclusions are that funding for the Library is not adequate ... and that inequities in Library services continue despite the expressed need for the Library to reach out to underserved populations."

Furthermore, the request put forth by the County Librarian to augment County support for open hours at all of our libraries is fully consistent with the purposes of Measure X. The funds provided by that measure, estimated to be at least \$88 million a year, are to be used for the following:

- Keep Contra Costa's regional hospital open and staffed;
- Fund community health centers;
- Provide timely fire and emergency response;
- Support crucial safety-net services;

- Invest in early childhood services;
- Protect vulnerable populations; and
- Fund other essential services.

The request for additional library hours clearly falls within the last four items to be addressed by Measure X which are underlined above.

As the information provided by County Librarian McKee shows, the existence of city funded library hours at the highest level basically tracks city household income. The four cities with the greatest number of city-funded library hours are those with the highest household income. This is a classic example of social inequity in action.

A significant part of the problem with the uneven distribution of library hours comes from the lack of adequate funding for libraries under the present system. This results in a per person expenditure in Contra Costa County that is substantially below that in neighboring counties. Alameda stands at 51% more, Solano at 70% more, Napa at 137% more, and Marin at 273% more.

This problem has been with us for some time and results from the joint responsibility for libraries in our county between the cities and the county. Richer cities can afford better libraries and libraries that are open more. Whatever the justification for this arrangement in the past, the existence of Measure X money to fix it makes the change imperative.

I ask that the Measure X Board remember that today's libraries do much more than store and check out books. They provide broadband access and enable usage by underserved populations; aid people experiencing homelessness, provide access to a wide variety of printed and electronic materials, and provide educational access and programs for people of all ages.

I doubt there is anything the Measure X Board can recommend that would have a greater, more immediate impact on providing critical services to underserved and inequitably treated residents of our County than responding positively to this proposal for expanded open hours.

Sincerely,

Peter A. Wilson
190 Pelican Loop
Pittsburg, CA 94565
925-360-7170

Lisa Driscoll

From: Jim Dolgonas <jdolgonas@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, July 24, 2021 1:15 PM
To: Lisa Driscoll
Subject: Measure X funding for libraries

I am a resident of El Cerrito and writing in support of County Librarian Alison McKee's request for funding from measure X taxes to provide additional library funding. Her analysis highlights how the low level library funding in our County compares to others. Additional funding for library hours will not eliminate this disparity but it a move in the right direction. Particularly for communities such as El Cerrito which is unlikely to benefit from measure X funding for the County Hospital, nor from funding for county emergency response (fire and medical), seeing some visible use of the measure's funding locally will be much appreciated.

Please let me know if I can elaborate on my support for additional library funding.

Jim Dolgonas
El Cerrito



Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

Subcommittee Report

MEASURE X COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Date: 07/28/2021
Subject: Plan for Series of Focused Presentations and Discussion
Submitted For: MEASURE X Com Advisory Board,
Department: County Administrator
Referral No.: 2/2/21 D.4
Referral Name: Community Advisory Committee for Measure X
Presenter: Mariana Moore **Contact:** Lisa Driscoll, County Finance
Director (925) 655-2047

Referral History:

Item was introduced at the April 21, 2021, MXCAB meeting (item #6). The draft plan was discussed on the April 28, 2021 meeting. At the June 9, 2021 meeting it was requested that this item be added to each agenda as a standing discussion item.

Referral Update:

Updated plan is attached for discussion and recommendations of presenters.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

Discuss/modify attached plan for presenters.

Attachments

MXCAB Suggested Speakers - Revised 7-23-21

MXCAB Flyer revised 7-23-2021

MXCAB Spanish Flyer revised 7-23-2021

Measure X Community Advisory Board - Suggested Speakers - updated July 23, 2021

Shaded areas = past meeting. **Bold** names - speakers invited. ***Bold/italic*** = speaker confirmed.

MEETING DATE	TOPIC(S)	COUNTY PRESENTERS	RECOMMENDED COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION PRESENTERS (and source)	RECOMMENDED RESIDENT PRESENTERS (and source)
12-May	Seniors, disabled people, veterans	EHSD Aging & Adult Services, Tracy Murray Veterans Services - Nathan Johnson, Veterans Service Officer, Contra Costa Veterans Services	Caitlin Sly, Executive Director of Meals on Wheels Diablo Region Nicole Howell, Executive Director, Ombudsman Services of Contra Costa, Solano, and Alameda Counties (Debbie Toth)	Myrtle Braxton, Chair, Richmond Commission on Aging (Debbie Toth)
19-May	Community safety: fire protection	Paige Meyer, Fire Chief, San Ramon Valley Fire Protection District, Lewis Broschard, Fire Chief, Contra Costa County Fire Protection District, and Brian Helmick, Fire Chief, East Contra Costa County Fire Protection District		
26-May	Early childhood	Camilla Rand, Deputy Director, First 5 Contra Costa Christina Reich, Division Manager, Contra Costa Community Services Bureau Francine Jolton, MD FAAP, Chair, Department of Pediatrics, CCHS	John Jones, Executive Director, CocoKids (All recommended by Ruth Fernandez)	Micaela Mota, Parent and Resident, Parent Voices
9-Jun	Youth, young adults	-Kathy Marsh, Employment and Human Services Department/Children and Family Services Bureau Director -Health Services (Public Health, Behavioral Health), Erika Jenssen, Contra Costa Health Services	Carol Carrillo, Executive Director of Child Abuse Prevention Council, Lynn Mackey, County Office of Education, County Superintendent of Schools, Kanwarpal Dhaliwal, RYSE Center (M. Moore)	-Eric Wagoner, a former foster youth and former youth partner -Youth presenters Isaiah Grant and Ann Guiam, RYSE Center

MEETING DATE	TOPIC(S)	COUNTY PRESENTERS	RECOMMENDED COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION PRESENTERS (and source)	RECOMMENDED RESIDENT PRESENTERS (and source)
16-Jun	Healthcare	Health Services- Dr. Samir Shah and Dr. Ori Tzvieli Gilbert Salinas (D. Honig)	Alvaro Fuentes , executive director, Community Clinic Consortium of Contra Costa and Solano (A. Saidi) Concepcion James , United Latino Voices (G. Calloway) CHD Black Healthcare Navigators (M. Stewart)	Maria Bernal (R. Carillo Garza) Jose Rizo (R. Carillo Garza)
23-Jun	Mental and behavioral health & disabled residents	Kennisha Johnson - BH staff Debbie Thomas - BH staff Vi Ibarra , CC Council on Developmental Disabilities (D. Toth) Jovanka Beckles , West County Child and Adolescent Services (BK Williams)	Tamara Hunter & Selah Baker , Putnam Clubhouse (S. Quezada Jenkins) Susannah Marshland , Fred Finch Youth Services (D. Geiger) Aracelia Aguilar , Deaf Hope (A. Saidi) Shelly Ji , NAMI Contra Costa	Greg Beckner and Isabella Quinto , NAMI family members Anna Lubarov , peer advocate Grace and Raquel Herrera (E. Jenssen)
30-Jun	Housing & homelessness	Lavonna Martin & Jenny Robbins , Health, Housing & Homeless division (D. Honig, M. Moore) John Kopchik & Amalia Cunningham , Dept. of Conservation & Development Joseph Villareal , Housing Authority of CC	Tony Bravo , Monument Impact (K. Laughlin, RTR) Mia Carbajal , Richmond LAND (BK Williams) Daniel Barth , SOS (BK Williams); Kenneth Modica	William Goodwin (D. Leich, D. Honig) Betty Gabaldon (K. Laughlin/RTR) Jocelyn Foreman (BK Williams)

MEETING DATE	TOPIC(S)	COUNTY PRESENTERS	RECOMMENDED COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION PRESENTERS (and source)	RECOMMENDED RESIDENT PRESENTERS (and source)
7-Jul	Community safety: justice systems	<p>Diana Becton , District Attorney</p> <p>Esa Ehmen-Krause , Chief Probation Officer</p> <p>Patrice Guillory , Director, Office of Reentry & Justice</p> <p>Robin Lipetzky, Public Defender/ Brandon Banks, Public Defender Managing Attorney</p> <p>Angelene Musawwir, Public Defender Social Work Supervisor</p> <p>David Livingston, Sheriff; Lt. David Hall , Sheriff's Dept.</p>	<p>Melvin Willis, CC Racial Justice Coalition (A. Saidi)</p> <p>Donté Blue, Dr. Carole Dorham-Kelly, Rhody McCoy, Rubicon (A. Saidi)</p> <p>Pat Mims, Director of Reentry Success Center Rubicon (A. Saidi)</p> <p>Chelsea Miller, CHaT (Restorative Justice) (A. Saidi)</p> <p>Veronica Benjamin/Danny Espinoza, Reimagining Public Safety CC Campaign (RPS) (A. Saidi)</p> <p>Tamisha Walker, Safe Return Project (A. Saidi, D. Honig, D. Leich)</p>	<p>Adey Teshager, Safe Return Project</p> <p>Randy Joseph, Richmond Reimagining Public Safety</p>
14-Jul	Safety net (e.g., employment, cash aid, food security, interpersonal violence, etc.)	<p>Claudia Gonzalez & Hisham Alibob , Alliance to End Abuse</p> <p>Kelley Curtis , EHSD CalFresh/CalWORKs division</p> <p>Patience Ofodu, Workforce Development Board</p> <p>Melinda Self, Director of Child Support</p> <p>Salina Mansapit , Child Support Specialist II</p>	<p>Maria Solorzano , Family Justice Center (S. Kim)</p> <p>Vic Baker, Equitable Economic Recovery Task Force (L. Lavender)</p> <p>Dr. Carol Doham-Kelly, Kimi Barnes , Rubicon (A. Saidi)</p> <p>Alissa Friedman , Opportunity Junction (L. Lavender)</p> <p>Kim Castaneda, Cheo Gonzalez - Food Bank of Contra Costa & Solano (M. Stewart, D. Honig)</p>	<p>Janell Coleman , Community Speaker</p> <p>Jessica Reid-Ozalp, resident speaker</p> <p>Je'Sha Hunt, resident speaker</p> <p>Keva Dean, Food Bank-Resident Advocacy (S.Kim)</p>

MEETING DATE	TOPIC(S)	COUNTY PRESENTERS	RECOMMENDED COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION PRESENTERS (and source)	RECOMMENDED RESIDENT PRESENTERS (and source)
21-Jul	Immigration Racial equity across systems	<i>Lanett Williams</i> , Stand Together Contra Costa	<i>Ari Jones</i> , Oasis Legal Services	<i>Rose Muñoz</i> , Resident Speaker
		<i>Heliodoro Moreno</i> , Stand Together Contra Costa	<i>Debra Ballinger</i> , Contra Costa Immigrant Rights Alliance	
			<i>Anupama Champagain Parajuli</i> - Lead Community Organizer of Nepali Health Advocates	
			<i>Sangita Gautuam</i> - Nepali Health Advocates	
			Community Engagement and Planning effort for the Office of Racial Equity & Social Justice: <i>Solomon Belette, Arielle Danzy, Karen Perkins, Anh Ta, Pastor Chris Williams</i>	
28-Jul	Library, arts & culture, agriculture	<i>Alison McKee</i> , Librarian	<i>Antonio Medrano</i> , CCC Library Commissioner	
		<i>Jenny Balisle and Ben Miyaji</i> , Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa (BK Williams)	<i>Tony Tamayo</i> , artist, advocate, Poetry Out Loud and ABOUTFACE Technical Assistant	<i>Marva Reed</i> , Art of the African Diaspora Curator
		<i>Silvia Ledezma</i> , Vice Chair AC5, Arts-in-Corrections: County Jail Project	<i>Naina Shastri</i> , Founder/Artistic Director at Ushanjali School of Dance, San Ramon Social Justice Collective	<i>Sheila McKinney, CieraJevae Gordon, Tara Malik</i> , LACOG (Local Arts and Cultural Organizations) grantee RYSE, youth artist performance
			<i>Donte Clark</i> , Poetry Out Loud Coordinator	<i>Dedan Ji Jaja</i> , ABOUTFACE Veteran artist

MEETING DATE	TOPIC(S)	COUNTY PRESENTERS	RECOMMENDED COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION PRESENTERS (and source)	RECOMMENDED RESIDENT PRESENTERS (and source)
			Ruthie Dineen , East Bay Center for the Performing Arts	Keertana Srekkumar , youth artist, advocate, student, San Ramon Youth Art Committee President/Founder
		Matthew Slattengren , Agricultural Commissioner - Dir of Weights and Measures; Jose Arriaga , Asst. Dir.		
4-Aug	Environment, transportation, public works, Conservation & Development	Brian Balbas , Public Works Director	Darnell Grisby, E.D. of TransForm (D.Toth)	
		John Cunningham , Principal Planner, Accessible Transportation	Darrell Owens , Vice President, East Bay Transit Riders Union	Transit Consumer (D.Toth)
		Jody London , Principal Planner, Sustainability		
		John Kopchik , Conservation & Development, Economic Development and Illegal Dumping Initiative		

11-Aug Develop draft priorities

18-Aug Finalize priorities &



Your Voice Matters!

Measure X Community Advisory Board seeks public input

Measure X, Contra Costa's new countywide, half-cent sales tax, is expected to raise \$112 million for the new fiscal year that begins July 1. The Measure X Community Advisory Board was formed to identify unmet community needs and recommend spending priorities to the county Board of Supervisors. The Advisory Board meets at 5:00 pm every Wednesday via

Zoom: <https://cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/81176769191>. Each meeting features a panel of presenters who have expertise in the need or issue being discussed. Panel members include county staff, community-based organizations, and residents.

Community members are welcome to provide public comment verbally after each panel presentation. Comments can also be submitted in writing to Lisa.Driscoll@cao.cccounty.us. If you submit written testimony by noon on the Friday prior to the following week's meeting, it will be included in the agenda packet that is published for Advisory Board members and the public.

Schedule* of issues and needs to be discussed:

May 12	Seniors, disabled people, veterans
May 19	Community safety: Fire protection
May 26	Early childhood
June 9	School-aged youth & young adults
June 16	Healthcare
June 23	Mental health and behavioral health
June 30	Housing & homelessness
July 7	Community safety: Justice systems
July 14	Safety net (jobs, public benefits, economic security)

July 21	Immigration, racial equity across systems
July 28	Library, arts & culture, agriculture
August 4	Environment, transportation, public works, conservation & development
August 11	Develop draft priorities & recommendations
August 18	Finalize recommendations to submit to Board of Supervisors

*Revised 7-23-2021



¡Tu Voz es Importante!

La Junta Asesora Comunitaria de la Medida X busca la opinión del público

Se espera que la Medida X, el nuevo impuesto a las ventas de medio centavo en todo el condado de Contra Costa, recaude \$ 112 millones para el nuevo año fiscal que comienza el 1 de julio. La Junta Asesora Comunitaria de la Medida X se formó para identificar las necesidades de la comunidad no satisfechas y recomendar prioridades de gasto a la Junta de Supervisores del condado. La Junta Asesora se reúne a las 5:00 pm todos los miércoles a través de Zoom: <https://cccouny.us.zoom.us/j/81176769191>. Cada reunión presenta un panel de presentadores que tienen experiencia en la necesidad o el tema que se está discutiendo. Los miembros del panel incluyen personal del condado, organizaciones comunitarias y residentes.

Los miembros de la comunidad son bienvenidos a proporcionar comentarios públicos verbalmente después de cada presentación del panel. Los comentarios también pueden enviarse por escrito a Lisa.Driscoll@cao.cccouny.us. Si presenta un testimonio escrito antes del mediodía del viernes anterior a la reunión de la semana siguiente, se incluirá en el paquete de la agenda que se publica para los miembros de la Junta Asesora y el público.

Calendario* de temas y necesidades que serán discutidas:

12 de mayo	Personas mayores, personas discapacitadas, veteranos
19 de mayo	Seguridad comunitaria: Protección contra incendios
26 de mayo	Educación temprana
9 de junio	Jóvenes en edad escolar y adultos jóvenes
16 de junio	Cuidado de la salud
23 de junio	Salud mental y salud conductual
30 de junio	Vivienda y desamparo
7 de julio	Seguridad comunitaria: sistemas de justicia
14 de julio	Red de seguridad (empleos, beneficios públicos, seguridad económica)
21 de julio	Inmigración, equidad racial en todos los sistemas
28 de julio	Biblioteca, arte y cultura, agricultura
4 de agosto	medio ambiente, transporte
11 de agosto	Desarrollar una lista de prioridades y recomendaciones
18 de agosto	Finalizar las recomendaciones para presentar a la Junta de Supervisores

*Revisado el 23 de julio de 2021



Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors

Subcommittee Report

MEASURE X COMMUNITY ADVISORY BOARD

Meeting Date: 07/28/2021
Subject: Review and Discuss Process for Finalizing Priorities and Recommendations to Submit to the Board of Supervisors
Submitted For: MEASURE X Com Advisory Board,
Department: County Administrator
Referral No.: 2/2/21 D.4
Referral Name: Measure X Community Advisory Committee
Presenter: Mariana Moore **Contact:**

Referral History:

REVIEW and DISCUSS process for finalizing priorities and recommendations to submit to the Board of Supervisors (Mariana Moore, Chair)

Referral Update:

Please see attached report from Cathy Hanville, District I Alternate and matrix of potential "buckets" from Vice Chair BK Williams.

Recommendation(s)/Next Step(s):

Accept attached updated tracking spreadsheet and list of potential funding buckets.

Attachments

Measure X Asks Spreadsheet Revised 7-23-21

Buckets (Potential) Measure X

AGENCY/GROUP	THE ASK	DATE OF PRESENTATION	PART OF COUNTY /All unless otherwise indicated	NOTES	Amounts			
COUNTY VETERANS OFFICE	OUTREACH POSITION-\$200K only one position requested	5/12/2021			200,000	specific		
OLDER ADULTS	CASE MANAGEMENT SERVICES ROUGH estimate 150-200 per employee	5/12/2021			400,000	estimate		
	Discretionary Funds no specific ask Alameda county has 750K-could be used for transport also	5/12/2021			750,000	another city		
	Nurse behavioral health clinician APS/IHSS	5/12/2021			400,000	estimate		
Contra Costa Fire	28.85 million	5/19/2021	Mostly east but some for all		28, 250,000	specific		
	San Ramon Valley fire response mental health-740,2000 -pilot project	presented supplement	south initially could be expanded		740,200	specific		
Early Childhood	16.725 MILLION EARLY CHILDHOOD SUPPORTS PROVIDERS SYSTEMS	5/26/2021			16,725,000	specific		
Youth	discretionary fund for CPS social workers no amount given	6/9/2021			300,000	estimate		
	transformational ideas family visitation center, respite programs whole family living resources no amount given	6/9/2021			1,000,000	estimate		
	suggestions made east county RYSE like program-no amount given	6/9/2021	east		5,000,000	estimate		
Health Care	Lab 25-40 million	6/16/2021			30,000,000	specific		
	More money for clinics no specific ask dollar amount	6/16/2021			15,000,000	estimate		
	Support County Hospital- no money specific ask	6/16/2021			5,000,000	estimate		
	More money for Contra Costa Cares program no specific ask	6/16/2021			2,000,000	estimate given via public comment		
Mental Health	Miles Hall community center and mobile crisis-no dollar amount given	6/23/2021			15,000,000	estimate		
	Deaf Hope-money to support their services unsure of amount	6/23/2021			500,000	estimate		
	Money to increase CBO budget to keep qualified workers	6/23/2021		money here could be leveraged for matches	250,000	used as example		
Housing/Homelessness	Land trust money-12 million a year	6/30/2021		money here opens many projects	12,000,000	specific		
	Eviction Defense funding-not specific amount	6/30/2021		SEE 2 million requests under immigration		other line		
Criminal Justice	DA-human trafficking dept 1 million	7/7/2021			1,000,000	specific		

AGENCY/GROUP	THE ASK	DATE OF PRESENTATION	PART OF COUNTY /All unless otherwise indicated	NOTES	Amounts			
	DA-investigation unit-sheriff 3 million	7/7/2021			3,000,000	specific		
	Young adult diversion-DA 1 million	7/7/2021			1,000,000	specific		
	CC racial justice coalition-youth training and equity center east county-estimate 22 million 1 time funding	7/7/2021	east	One time-different orgs supported	22,000,000	specific		
	Rubicon-Probation-Support for reentry services no dollar amount	7/7/2021			500,000	estimate		
	Sheriff 12.8 million mostly for staff 1.3 million body worn cams	7/7/2021	mostly east unincorporated		12,800,000	specific		
	Restorative Justice Programs-no specific dollar ask	7/7/2021			500,000	estimate		
	Public Defender office 2 million for social worker lawyer teams from time of arrest	7/7/2021		publicly supported by others	2,000,000	specific		
Safety Net/Violence	Alliance for Violence prevention plan 4 million 1 million discretionary-1 million DPH civil legal 1 million	7/14/2021			4,000,000	specific		
	500k community advocates-500k community connectedness							
	Guaranteed Income trial 2 million	7/14/2021		possible state match for program for pregnant women and former foster kids	2,000,000	specific		
	Rubicon-Cal Fresh Plan employment and training-750,000	7/14/2021			750,000	specific		
	Food Bank-Mobile Food Pharmacy-400K one time FOR TRUCKS 400K a year	7/14/2021			800,000	specific		
	Increase EHSD navigator program-1.3 million	7/14/2021			1,300,000	specific		
	subsidized employee for call fresh EHD-500,000	7/14/2021		match	500,000	specific		
	workforce increase baseline funding for workforce development EHD-no specific amount 1 million	7/14/2021			1,000,000	specific		
	employee navigators for child support program-3 positions-360,000	7/14/2021		possible 2/3 federal match would lower amount to \$120	360,000	specific		
	CCWC -money to increase services/operations-700,000	7/14/2021			700,000	specific		
	CCWC -Training Support Fund for stipends 1 million	7/14/2021			1,000,000	specific		
	Market Analysis- for outreach strategies 250,000-EHD	7/14/2021			250,000	specific		
	Safety Net Partnership Group-200,000-EHD	7/14/2021			200,000	specific		
Immigration/Racial Justice	Immigrants rights alliance 2 million eviction defense	7/21/2021		this has been asked for before by other groups and public comment	2,000,000	specific		

AGENCY/GROUP	THE ASK	DATE OF PRESENTATION	PART OF COUNTY /All unless otherwise indicated	NOTES	Amounts			
	Immigrants rights alliance -150K for tenants right lawyer during UD 150K	7/21/2021			150,000	specific		
	Immigrants rights alliance-attorneys and social workers for court self help no amount give	7/21/2021						
	Immigrants rights alliance -fund holistic eviction defense no amount given	7/21/2021						
	Nepali Health advocates Multicultural wellness center-2 million	7/21/2021			2,000,000	specific		
	Stand together 2 million free removal defense + holistic assistance via navigation and social	7/21/2021			2,000,000	specific		
	Oasis-Contra Costa cares make it easier esp mental health-support asylum seekers	7/21/2021						
	monument impact-eviction defense-rental assistance-PD social workers-deportation legal teams	7/21/2021						
	Office of Racial and Social Justice-asked-sole support-will come back with numbers	7/21/2021			1,500,000	estimate via Gigi		
					168,575,200			

BUCKETS (POTENTIAL)

Measure X

Matching funds available	Most vulnerable population	<i>BEST INVESTMENT!</i>	Black people-equity lens	Marginalized community
Can be merged with others	Most compelling	Least compelling	Center for service	Trans-formative
Innovative	Fills gap	Decision making	Prevention	Eliminates problem
What’s missing	One time funfing	Under 500,000	Under 1M	1-5 M
Over 10 M	Farthest reach	Strategic Plan	Partnership Faith community and volunteers	Life altering