

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