

Lisa Driscoll

From: Kathryn Sibley <k8sibley@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 10:58 AM
To: Lisa Driscoll; John Gioia; Candace Andersen; Diane Burgis; SupervisorMitchoff; Federal Glover
Cc: Arts Staff
Subject: Measure X Funds

Good morning, Lisa; and good morning, Supervisors--

I am writing to you regarding adequate allocation of Measure X funding for the arts in Contra Costa County. It has long been a shameful reality that our county has drastically underfunded the arts here.

You all know that the arts are, and have always been, important to me personally in this county. In fact, my first job within the county was as assistant director of AC5, back when the county provided more funding than has been available since around 2001. The per capita spending on the arts in Contra Costa County is embarrassingly low--especially since I know that each of you actually appreciates the arts in your own way (and you all likely support arts organizations in your own district individually).

Measure X finally provides an opportunity for you to rectify that historical lack of support. AC5 has been working hard to make the case for substantially raising the county's allocation for the arts to something equal to other counties in the Bay Area. Raising the funding from \$31,000 to \$625,000 annually will help the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County to demonstrate support for the arts and compete for national and state grants. Having watched AC5 struggle for many years, I know for a fact that many grant proposals have been turned down due to inadequate County matching funds.

Measure X funds could help provide public art programs in each district, a Community Art Fund, a youth advisor in each district, an Artist-In-Residency in the School pilot program, the Arts Connection and Build Structures initiative and other great programs. You already know that strong arts programs help youth learn and help people connect with each other.

You have an opportunity (I would dare say an obligation) to stabilize arts funding and allow your arts commission to plan equitably for a future where the arts can help strengthen and improve the quality of life throughout Contra Costa County. I do hope you will find a clear pathway to doing that with the Measure X funds.

Thank you. (And by the way, I miss seeing you all on a somewhat regular basis...)

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