

Applicants for the Ad Hoc Arts Council Steering Committee

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Resident District</u>	<u>City</u>	<u>Education</u>	<u>Current Employer</u>	<u>Employment District</u>	<u>Volunteer/Activity/Affiliation</u>	<u>Experience/Interest</u>
1	Janet Berckefeldt	2	Lafayette	University of Southern California, MA Public Administration; University of Redlands, BA Government	Maybeck Foundation	2	Board of Trustees, University of Redlands, Redlands, CA; Board of Directors, John Muir Land Trust, Martinez, CA; Board of Directors, Museum of the San Ramon Valley, Danville	My career in non-profit arts and culture organizations has spanned more than 50 years. More than half of that time has been in public-private partnerships for museums, historic preservation, and wildlife conservation organizations. I have served on several theater and museum boards of directors. As a consultant, I have worked with theaters, museums, and other arts and culture organizations. I am a descendant of pioneer ranching families in Danville (Baldwin) and San Ramon (Cox) and am committed to ensuring that Contra Costa County is a vibrant and healthy place to live.
2	Marija Bleier	2	Danville	UC Santa Cruz, BA Art History	Town of Danville, Visual Arts Coordinator	2	SRVUSD (San Ramon Valley Unified School District), Contra Costa Midrasha	I am very interested in helping foster arts in my community, and serving on a steering committee for the Arts for the County would be a positive way to contribute. I have a robust background in the arts and know a lot of artists in Contra Costa and surrounding Bay Area communities. I have served on the arts advisory board in the past (Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County). Additionally, I am a member of NorCalPaan (Northern California Public Art Administrators Network) and work in the arts for the Town of Danville as the Visual Arts Coordinator. I have also volunteered as an arts judge for SRVUSD art competitions.
3	Kristen Cumings	5	Pittsburg	Wheaton College, Wheaton Illinois, BFA/French Horn performance	Self Employed/Cumings Consulting	5	I have working with Pittsburg Arts and Community Foundation since 2012 in both volunteer and paid positions, as an instructor, program supervisor, and grant writer. I have also volunteered for other non arts-related organizations such as food banks, schools, and local businesses.	I would like to serve on the steering committee for our county as we work together to develop a cohesive plan for the arts, because I believe the arts are necessary in order for people to experience the full spectrum of human existence, and the more people who have access to the opportunity to participate in the arts on every level, the better all of our lives will be in Contra Costa County. I am a working visual artist who has lived in Contra Costa county for the past 25 years. I started building my art career in 2009 while living in Martinez, as artist in residence for Jelly Belly Candy Company. Since 2009, I've made over 100 large scale works for Jelly Belly at events around the U.S. and the world, as well as numerous private commissions and a large body of work in various other visual media. Since moving to Pittsburg in 2012, I have become involved with Pittsburg Arts and Community Foundation. I am interested in scaling up my own involvement in support of the arts, and I would bring a grassroots experiential perspective of being a working artist in the county for the past 25 years to the committee if selected.

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4	Leonardo Ding	2	Orinda	Miramonte High School	student	NA	Boy Scouts Troup 237, California Association of Student Councils, Stop Asian Hate Youth Campaign, Xenophon Therapeutic Riding Center, Aegis Living (Senior Memory Care Volunteer), Debate Coach at Orinda Intermediate School, Media Production Team at Miramonte High School	Serving on the Steering Committee is of interest to me because of my passion for the arts and my desire to make it more accessible. I wouldn't say I'm the best drawer or painter, but I've been involved with the arts ever since I could remember. I play the piano, performing at many venues, including the Baroque Festival of the Contra Costa branch, and am heavily invested in photography and videography. I am lucky to be a part of a community that supports the arts, and envision similar programs across the county. The arts have allowed me to see the world differently; seeing things through a different lense have nurtured my creativity and critical thinking skills. As a county, there are crucial aspects of the community that need more emphasis. While I am only in high school, I believe I can bring a new perspective to the committee, one from a younger generation. The creation of an arts council should include programs for the youth, and my past experiences working with kids of all ages has given me knowledge on how to encourage participation and develop activities that kids enjoy. In addition to supporting youth, I hope to assist the Arts Council to help local artists get public attention and recognition. My upbringing and school has led me to appreciate many cultures, and as a person of color myself, one of my main goals if appointed is to ensure access to all and to be active in receiving feedback from the community.
5	Joan D'Onofrio	4	Concord	Pratt Institute, BFA	MICHELANGELO D'ONOFRIO ARTS FOUNDATION, Founder & President;	N/A	ART IN A BOX: I am currently assembling art supplies in boxes to be distributed to unhouse/unsheltered/homeless students in grads one through 12 in the Mt Diablo Unified School District. I edit and publish the weekly Clayton Valley/Concord Rotary newsletter. I am also an award winning graphic designer, painter and illustrator.	I consider serving on this particular committee due to unfinished business with the Arts and Culture Commission. My resume listed my employment history as follows: 2014 to present: Rotary International, Newsletter Editor, Secretary of the Board of Directors, Rotarian of the Year 2020; 2008 to present, MICHELANGELO D'ONOFRIO ARTS FOUNDATION, Founder & President; 2008 to 2022: H&R Block, Inc. Customer Service Professional/Office Marketing Coordinator; 2018-2021: Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County, Commissioner; 2017-2018 and 2016-2017: Superior Court of the State of California, Member of the Civil Grand Jury; 2002-2008: Curves for Women, Franchise Owner; 1989-2002: EMC Publishing, Inc, Art Director/Production Manager/Marketing Design Coordinator; 1973-1989: Oceana Publications, Inc. Vice President/Managing Editor
6	Nilofar Gardezi	N/A		Yale College, B.A. African American Studies; UC Berkley, Ph.D. English	Dean & Margaret Leshar Foundation, Program Officer & Grants Manager	4		As the Arts & Culture Program Officer at the Dean & Margaret Leshar Foundation, I am committed to supporting the development of a more equitable, diverse, and representative Arts Council for all of Contra Costa County. The Leshar Foundation will support the process for creating the Arts Council and I am applying to the steering committee to remain engaged and uphold our strong commitment.

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7	Arlene Kikkawa-Nielsen	4	Clayton	Mt. San Antonio College, Associate of Science - Liberal Arts Studies; Mt. San Antonio College, Associate of Arts - Design	Curves Health and Fitness Center, Circuit Coach	4	Clayton Community Library Foundation, Creekside Artists Guild; Diablo Taiko Drumming; Jsei, Diablo JA Religious and Cultural Center & Club; Cancer Support Community; NorCal Gagaku; Diablo Valley Hui O'Aloha	To further expand over 25 years of diverse experience providing service in the public, private, non-profit, and health related sectors towards a career that utilizes my collaborative, organizational and project managerial skills to benefit and enrich communities.
8	Tari Loring	4	Walnut Creek	Chapman University, Performing Arts Major/Business Minor	Local Edition Creative	4	Currently serve as the Secretary & Treasurer as well as the COO for a nonprofit arts organization, Three Thirty Three Arts.	As a resident of Contra Costa County for 10 years and as a business owner of a public art & creative placemaking company, I've witnessed the lack of public arts & culture investment in many areas of the County. Through my business, we're making a concentrated effort to change that by adding more diverse public artworks to cities that don't have much publi art and also by building cultural experiences that igninte inspiration & excitement in our county. I'm well-versed in creating strategies for public arts projects that are realistic for each unique setting. I've also co-founded a nonprofit arts organization that focuses on providing artists opportunities to build their experience with public art and directly work on projects that benefit the community.
9	Christy Mack	2	Lafayette	University of Iowa, BA Chemistry	Bess Brand Studio LLC, Studio Founder	N/A	Art Committee (Member, 2022 - present); Art Moves Project (Past President/Board, 2016 - present); Lamorinda Arts Council (Board, 2017 - 2018); 100 Plus Women Who Care Contra Costa County (Founding Member/Grant Maker, 2016 - present); Lafayette Juniors (Past President/Board 2012 - 2018); San Luis Obispo Children's Museum (Board, 2008 - 2010); San Luis Obispo County Community Foundation + Women's Legacy Fund (Founding Member/Grant Maker 2009 - Present)	I have lived in Contra Costa County for 12 years and want to help define the future of arts and culture here. I have seen firsthand the benefits of collaborative planning and the positive outcomes of establishing arts councils. I welcome the opportunity to work in partnership to ensure accessible, diverse arts and culture experiences for everyone who lives in, works in, or visits Contra Costa County. have contributed to the arts and culture sector for almost 15 years as a City public art committee member, arts nonprofit co-founder, arts council board member, museum board member, consultant, and grant maker. I have also served on nonprofit boards, issuing \$1M in grants to facilitate the creation of more equitable communities.
10	Wyatt Mathews	4	Pleasant Hill	Diablo Valley College, Art; Sacramento State University, Art (Ceramics)	Claypeople, Business Manager	1		I have been a long time resident of Contra costa county and a member of the art community for that last decade or so. I believe I possess a signifiant amount of knowledge on art with a specifica conentration is ceramics. As well as good understanding of the costs and of arts programs in the area. I have worked and currently work for art and community centered business in the East bay. I have worked in art full time for the last 12 years or so. I have managed several groups and hundreads of people both in the east bay and at Sacramento State. I have managed art studios and currently mannage an art supply store that gives a lot back to the local ceramics community.

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11	Germaine McCoy	3	Brentwood	University of Neada-Reno, BA/Criminal Justice; SFSU, MA/Behaviorial and Women's Studies	Retired	N/A		I am interested in working with others toward a common goal of beautifying our shared environment through cultural arts. This is also an opportunity to expose myself to and learn from local artists and cultural organizations within the county. I have no specific education or experience within the field of Arts. However, I have worked as an adult probation officer over 20 years for the City and County of San Francisco. I understand working through process in order to achieve a specific end. I have learned how to work within large diverse groups of people, problem solve, manage expectations and outcomes, to advocate and listen. In my opinion, these are great skills to have when working with various organizations in an effort to reach planned goals/outcomes, and I would greatly appreciate an opportunity to use these skills within this committee.
12	Alison McKee	4	Concord	San Jose State University, Master of Library and Information Science; San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Bachelor's of Music Performance; Indiana University, Bachelor's of Music Performance	Contra Costa County, County Librarian	5	Economic Opportunity Council	I am an art and music lover and I am especially interested in the cross section of the arts and public libraries. I am the County Librarian for Contra Costa County and I have a music degree and worked as a musician for professionally for 10 years prior to moving on to a different career.
13	John Meehan	5	Martinez	Diablo Valley Collee, Music	BD Performing Arts	5		While I have been an active designer and educator for The Blue Devils (BD Performing Arts) in the Contra Costa area for almost 30 years, it was only recently I moved into a role where I oversee all of our community programs (Director of Community Arts Programs). This past year has been a lot of learning, and starting to network and engage in our community in ways we haven't before. I have a deep understanding of the arts (primarily music), and am extremely motivated to find new ways to engage our non-profit into our community as much as possible, and help our community thrive with the arts in general. I have performed clinics as well as arranged and composed music for groups around the United States and World. I've also coordinated and performed in many ensembles (including Niner Noise, the Warriors half-time band, for a Super Bowl, and on the soundtrack to Monsters University). In 2019, I was inducted into the Drum Corps International Hall of Fame, and am also an inductee of the World Drum Corps Hall of Fame.

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14	Margot Melcon	N/A	San Francisco	CSU Chico, BA Theater Arts	Zellerbach Family Foundation	N/A	Too numerous to name, but all arts and culture related.	Margot Melcon (she/her) joined the Zellerbach Family Foundation six years ago and manages their arts and culture grantmaking portfolio, including the Community Arts program, where she works to create an equitable, responsive, and accessible relationship in community with Bay Area artists. Prior to joining the foundation, she worked with nonprofit arts organizations for 20 years as a dramaturg, producer, and arts administrator,. She is also a published and produced playwright (of Miss Bennet, The Wickhams, and Georgiana and Kitty, co-written with Lauren Gunderson). She is also, importantly, a parent.
15	Ben Miyaji	5	Pittsburg	Allan Hancock Community College, General; University of Maryland, History; Evergreen Valley College, General		N/A	Children's Musical Theater of San Jose Board of Directors; San Jose Arts Commission - Chair; Palo Alto Public Art Commission - Chair; Numerous California Arts Council/Silicon Valley Creates/San Jose Arts Commission grant panels; Numerous selection panels for public art projects in Bay Area counties	The arts are a very important part of our lives. Contra Costa County deserves an arts organization that can bridge the gap between the residents and county arts groups that will bring quality arts programming to the county. The Steering Committee is a significant step in bringing needed cohesino to the county arts organizations. I believe my experience serving on the San Jose Arts Commission (over 20 years), Palo Alto Public Art Commission (since 2013) and the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County give me a unique view on commissions/councils. Also my serving on numerous grants panels on the local and state level also give me insight into the inner workings of arts organizations.
16	Sharon Mossman	3	Oakley	Rose State College, Associate of Science; University of San Francisco, Bachelor of Science	Kith & Kin Studio of Fine Art	3	While serving on the Antioch Art Commission, I organized a Christmas Gala for the city of Antioch which included getting the store owners to decorate their stores, a roaming group of carolers to sing in various locations, and a decorated, horse-drawn carriage to transport visitors around the city. I also volunteered as an art teacher in the elementary school system in Antioch.	
17	John Nakanishi	4	Pleasant Hill	Hartford Art School, Fine Arts Major; College of San Mateo, Chemistry; UC Berkeley, Chemical Engineering	Retired	N/A	Concord Art Association Boardmember and President; Past session Member, Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church; Past Boardmember Pleasant Hill Martinez Soccer Association; Past Volunteer Art Teacher (Sequoia Elementary School, Monument Crisis Center, Wren Avenue Elementary School PTA); Columnist for the Clayton Concord Pioneer newspaper (Arts in Motion)	I believe Contra Costa County needs a strong and vibrant arts council to bring art to the community. I would like to be a part of the process to develop this arts council in order to enrich the creative lives of local artists and county residents. My experience as president of the Concord Arts Association has provided me with a view of the arts community in and around the Concord area. I can also provide perspective based on my Japanese-American heritage.

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18	Charles Phalen	5	Martinez	DVC, Music/Drama; SF State, Music/Recording Industry	Retired	N/A		Though I do not live in District 3, I am presently the Technical Director and board members for Ghostlight Theatre Ensemble in Brentwood. I would be pleased to represent east county.
19	Joel Roster	5	Martinez	Diablo Valley College, Theater Arts	Executive Director, El Campanil Theater	5	Board Of Directors for the Chamber of Commerce, City Of Antioch Chairperson of Nonprofit Arts Committee, Chamber of Commerce, City of Antioch 20+ years of various events, fundraisers, and mixers for various organizations in Contra Costa County	I have been involved in arts administration and arts education since 2002. I re-built the Diablo Valley College "College For Kids" theatre program, and was recruited by Town Hall Theatre in Lafayette to help build their education program. After serving as a Teaching Artist for a few years, I was promoted to Director of Education for Town Hall Theatre, and restructured their entire program, renaming it to "Town Hall Education" and seeking qualified teaching artists to give their students a fully professional experience. I directed over 40 productions for young artists, and was then promoted to become Town Hall's Artistic Director. Over my tenure, Town Hall Theatre received more awards for their productions than any period in their 90-year history. I then served at Berkeley Playhouse for their educational programs, and in 2019 was invited to interview to become the Theatre Manager for El Campanil Theatre in Antioch. I steered the company through the pandemic, innovating new entertainment options, and in 2021 was promoted to become the foundation's Executive Director. Since the fall of 2020, I have secured over \$500,000 in grants for El Campanil, and I currently oversee a staff of 50+ employees.
20	Najari Smith	1	Richmond	NYC College of Technology, Graphic Art & Media; School of the Visual Arts, Bachelors of Fine Art	Rich City RIDES, Founder/Executive Director	1	Human Rights and Human Relations Commission, Commissioner; Our Power Richmond Coalition; Climate Justice Alliance; Sustainability Comm.; Richmond Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Richmond Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee;The City of Richmond, Arts & Culture Commission	In 2014, I served as an Arts and Culture Commissioner for the City of Richmond. Najari is chair emeritus and long time member of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee for the City of Richmond. Najari is the founding executive director of Rich City Rides. In 2014, 2-years after founding Rich City Rides, Najari co-founded the Rich City Rides Bike Skate Shop Cooperative, a Black Worker-owned cooperative for-profit business. Najari is a former member of the Sustainability Committee for Seed Commons. Najari is a founding steering committee member of Cooperation Richmond. Cooperation Richmond builds community-controlled wealth through worker-owned and community-owned cooperative businesses and enterprises by and for low-income communities and communities of color in Richmond whose wealth has been extracted.

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21	Terri Tobey	2	Walnut Creek	Washington University, BA - Performing Arts; Webster University, MAT - Teaching; Webster University, MA - Gerontology	Diablo Valley Foundation Aging, Volunteer Manager	all	Started a nonprofit for women in Colorado; subcontracted with Department of Senior Affairs, Albuquerque, NM; "brain games" including arts projects with participants of 9 senior centers	I'm an LGBTQ senior artist, and a member of the Rossmore Art Association, and have shown my work in juried exhibitions. I've devoted my professional life as a Gerontologist to help seniors optimize their lives, and I strongly believe creativity (arts) is a central element of that work. I've been involved in community organizations in CO, CA, NM and worked collaboratively with nonprofits, government agencies, and corporations in the healthcare field. My passion is offering creative outlets to seniors at home and in facilities to improve their well-being. I have presented at Senior Centers, local and statewide and national aging conferences.
22	Randall Wight	5	Martinez	California State East Bay, Bachelor of Science	E5 Management	4	Martinez Unified School District Advisory Board; Martinez Campbell Theater Advisory Board, Special Events	I would like to provide a perspective that would allow the committee to have a broader and more diverse view of what may be considered as an art form and venues that play host to those art forms. As an advisory member of a local non-profit that works with both educational and performance art forms, it may serve the committee's stated charge. Stand up Comedy, Community Theater, Long and Short Form Improv, Accomplished Speaker (Toastmasters), Corporate Facilitator, Author, Inventor Currently - General Manager Act II Improv Special Events Coordinator - Martinez Campbell Theater Chief Justing Officer/Producer - Funny Bone Productions