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September 9, 2022

Dear Supervisor Diane Burgis and Supervisor Candace Andersen,

Thank you for taking the time to review a recommendation to the Board of Supervisors for the establishment of an Ad Hoc Arts Council Steering Committee and its development.

My name is Jenny Balisle and I'm the Executive Founding Director of ARTSCCC (Arts Contra Costa County). I've served on the Richmond Arts & Culture Commission, Public Art Advisory Committee, and Managing Director of Arts & Culture Commission of Contra Costa County.

As Contra Costa County moves forward, I wanted to share two recommendations:

1. In the Internal Operations Committee agenda packet, Exhibit 7 is the Measure X Arts and Culture recommendation of \$250k (original ask was \$625k). The \$250k contains specific earmarks and requests. This is no longer applicable. Measure X funds would be best served as general operating support. This would follow a funding development process similar to the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice.
2. Please consider a flexible RFP (request for proposal) for a new arts organization requirement:
  - a. The RFP could include options like fiscal sponsorships, mentorship, and/or partnerships with several organizations.
  - b. A nonprofit organization mentors a fiscal sponsor.
  - c. Multiple organizations (max 3) work together.
  - d. An organization works with a fiscal sponsorship and cultural leaders.

In this new and unprecedented beginning, expanding requirements and supporting general operating funding would result in more applications and meaningful collaborations throughout Contra Costa County!

With sincere appreciation,

*JB*

Jenny Balisle