



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
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Dear Supervisor Mitchoff and Supervisor Gioia,

Thanks to the Board of Supervisors for approving the County Administrator Office recommendation of \$250k in Measure X funds for the Arts and Culture Commission. We are grateful and appreciative of your support!

With extra reserve funds, we hope the Finance Committee will consider additional funding for staff and signature programs. The current approved \$250k is for a District Public Art Program (\$100k), 3 new programs (\$50k), and staff (\$100k for two employees). The Managing Director currently oversees 8 programs, grant writing, and commission business. The addition of 4 new programs without secure staff funding presents new workload challenges.

The most essential elements of our original \$625k Arts and Culture Commission's Measure X request was to secure staff and signature programs. Community spoke in support for our signature programs such as *ABOUTFACE* (Veteran self-portrait class), *Poetry Out Loud* (high school contest), and *Art Passages* exhibits. Full time employees are needed to deliver the County Administrator's Office recommendation and build an arts foundation. That was not included.

In deepest respect, please consider an additional \$230k to the approved \$250k totaling \$480k:

1. \$305k Staff: Managing Director, Program Coordinator, and Communication & Marketing positions (3 full-time employees including benefits)
2. \$75k Signature Programs: *ABOUTFACE*, *Poetry Out Loud*, and *Art Passages*
3. \$50k District Public Art Program: \$10,000 each district
4. \$50k New Programs: *Youth Advisor* (each District), *AIRS* (Artist-in-Residency in the Schools) pilot program, and *Arts Connection*

We want to deliver quality with successful art outcomes for the community. Thanks for your consideration!

Sincerely,

Jenny Balisle
Managing Director, Arts and Culture Commission

Silvia Ledezma, M.A.
Chair, Arts and Culture Commission