

From: [Silvia Ledezma](#)
To: [Supervisor Candace Andersen](#); [Supervisor Burgis](#); [Julie Enea](#)
Cc: [Clerk of the Board](#)
Subject: Input to Internal Operations Committee
Date: Monday, March 14, 2022 10:31:29 AM

I appreciate that you have taken the time to inquire about AC5 County Arts matters and concerns.

I am Silvia Ledezma Arts educator and advocate. My B.F.A. is from Cal. College of the Arts and a Masters of Arts in Visual Studies from the University of California at Berkeley.

In 2016 I was appointed by County Supervisor John Gioia and continued reappointment through 2021. I spent 5 years and eight months with the Arts Commission. As Chair I spent 12 months and 3 days due to a resignation.

I have been involved with the Superior Court of Contra Costa County as a Civil Grand Juror in 2018. This means that I volunteered for the County almost seven years.

Since 2016 I started to realize that the Commissions lacked team work, respect for Latinx like me. Through the years there's been secrecy and violations to the Brown Act and to Bylaws, nepotism and disruption when we needed consensus.

I reported this issue to a County Administrator which is no longer here. We were told that the Zoom meetings were not recorded because of Brown Act violations.

As the Chair to the County Arts Commission I endured a lot of stress and frustration due to the lack of oversight.

I was immersed in the creation of the Cultural Plan prospectus updating Bylaws and creating Agendas. For me Inclusion and equity is the most important element for a better society.

I recommend that what is stated above does not happen again. For the Board and County Administration to observe the development of a new commission.

I recommend option one as a realistic approach in building a new Arts and Culture Commission for Contra Costa County.

Silvia Ledezma M.A.