

Dear County of San Diego Board of Supervisors,

Thank you for your ongoing support of arts and culture, specifically for re-establishing the San Diego County Arts and Culture Commission. The Commission celebrated its first anniversary in April with the completion of its first strategic plan.

However, we are disappointed that the recommended FY 2024-25 budget did not include operating funds for the San Diego County Arts and Culture Commission. The Commission needs this support to implement its strategic plan and fulfill its mission.

The County Arts and Culture Commission's work comes at a time when support for arts and culture is greatly needed. San Diego's creative industry is critical to our region's economic engine, and our economic needs are significant. According to a 2023 Americans for the Arts - Arts and Economic Prosperity study, San Diego County's nonprofit arts sector generates \$1.4 billion in annual economic impact, supports nearly 20,000 jobs for residents, and contributes over \$320 million in direct local taxes.

This also comes at a time when arts funding from other public sources is at risk. Although the state legislature agreed to restore 75 percent of the cuts announced by Gov. Gavin Newsom, there is still \$5 million in reductions on the table for the state's local assistance arts fund. This could negatively impact the capacity of more than 100 nonprofit arts and culture organizations that depend on revenue from this fund to serve our region.

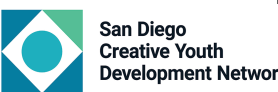
While considering the CAO's recommended budget, **we ask that you direct two (2) FTEs to establish a newly created Office of Arts and Culture, and an additional \$362,000 per year to implement the San Diego Arts and Culture Commission's initiatives as described in their 2024-2026 strategic plan.** This \$362,000 in fiscal year 2024-2025 will allow the office to implement activities is detailed in attachment A.

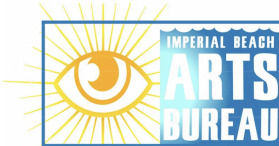
In addition to serving as an economic driver, the arts continue to provide equitable, inclusive, and accessible opportunities for learning, leisure, and community building throughout our County. It is within your power to ensure that our arts industry receives the resources needed to continue this work.

Please commit two (2) FTES and \$362,000 for the San Diego County Arts and Culture Commission in the FY 2024-2025 budget.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

				
Michael Angelo Camacho Director of Government and Field Engagement	Nicole Verdes Managing Director	Shayla James Director	Tonatíuh Gomez President of the Board	Matt Carney Executive Director

				
Denise Montgomery Founder & Principal	Erin Spiewak Executive Director	Patricia Frischer Founder and Coordinator	Bob Lehman Executive Director	Renee Richetts Past Chair, Escondido Arts Partnership
				
Leah Goodwin Owner	Danielle Bunch Actor and Director	CJ Di Mento Oceanside Library & Cultural Arts Director	Andrew Utt Executive Director	Carly Topazio, Artistic Director & CEO
				
Brigid Parsons Oceanside Arts Commission Chair, Oceanside Art Walk	Galina Marcus Founder, Executive Director	Michelle Lubin President of the Board	Naimeh Woodward President, Encinitas Friends of the Arts	Maricruz Alvarado Visual Artist

				
Becky Goodman Deputy Director of Philanthropy	Sharlene O’Keefe Executive Director	Patricia Frischer Chair	Alex Goodman Managing Director	Toby Batley Co-Artistic Director
				
Eric Jones Founder, Secretary and Treasurer	Adrienne Valencia Executive Director	Jessica Baron Founder and Executive Director	Sarah Holbach Executive Director	J. Scott Lapp Artistic Director
				
Martha Gilmer CEO	Alex C. Villafuerte Executive Director	Roberto D. Hernández Board President	Valentina Lunati Managing Director	Alexandra Perez Demma President

 NEW VILLAGE ARTS		[Logo]	[Logo]	[Logo]
Kristianne Kurner Executive Artistic Director	Linda Todd-Limon President	Signatory Name & Title	Signatory Name & Title	Signatory Name & Title
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