

**SUBSTITUTE MOTION BY SUPERVISORS MARK RIDLEY-THOMAS March 10, 2020
AND SHEILA KUEHL**

Investing in Arts-Based Solutions for Justice-Involved Populations

Over the past decade, the County of Los Angeles (County) and its community partners have made coordinated investments to provide innovative arts-based programs for youth in the juvenile justice system. In late 2018, in recognition of these efforts, the Arts for Justice Fund awarded the Los Angeles County Arts Commission (now the Department of Arts and Culture) a \$750,000 grant to help build systems of support for systems-involved and at-risk youth. Subsequently, on December 18, 2018, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board) approved a motion by Supervisors Ridley-Thomas - Kuehl, "Investing in Justice-Involved Individuals Through the Arts." This motion convened a Youth Arts Task Force (Task Force) and directed the Department of Arts and Culture (Department) to create a Countywide plan to elevate the arts as a justice-reform strategy. To develop this plan, the Department convened three internal meetings of the Task Force, comprised of representatives from 39 County departments, and one public meeting with representatives from over 25 community-based organizations.

On September 13, 2019, the Department submitted to the Board the "Countywide Plan for Elevating the Arts as a Criminal Justice Reform Strategy" (Plan). The Plan sets out five goals, including establishing Countywide leadership and coordination of arts-based strategies; expanding prevention strategies; strengthening and sustaining supports for justice-involved youth and their families; supporting justice-involved adults; and expanding external partnerships. To achieve these goals, the Department recommends

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SUBSTITUTE MOTION BY SUPERVISORS RIDLEY-THOMAS AND KUEHL

March 10, 2020

PAGE 2

a phased implementation plan that includes a significant investment in community-based efforts that support programs aimed at prevention and stronger supports for justice-involved individuals and their families. Immediate investment would ensure sustainability of proven programs for justice-involved youth, and further investment would allow for the expansion of programming to adults involved in the justice system.

As noted in the Plan, expanding arts-based strategies for justice-involved populations will both advance the Board's priority of creating a more rehabilitative, and less punitive, criminal justice system as well as the Board's commitment to a trauma-informed and healing approach to violence prevention. Arts-based strategies have demonstrated an ability to foster resiliency and positive self-image for individuals affected by trauma (Heise, 2014; Fritz and van Westrhenen, 2014). In addition, arts-based programs can reduce recidivism; result in significant cost savings; and create career pathways in the creative economy for justice-involved individuals (University of Notre Dame, 2015; New Philanthropy Capital, 2011; LA County Arts Commission, 2015). These innovative strategies are a promising investment in the County's efforts to improve the well-being of those served by the criminal justice system and enhance public safety. A deeper investment is needed to keep the arts at the forefront of the youth justice system while allowing adults in the justice system to also benefit.

WE THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Adopt the goals of the "Countywide Plan for Elevating the Arts as a Criminal Justice Reform Strategy" (Plan);
2. Direct the CEO, in consultation with the Director of the Department of Arts and Culture (Director), to report back in writing during the FY 2020-21 Supplemental Budget phase with an analysis of the feasibility of funding the various phases of the Plan, including options for utilizing matching funds from other departments and County entities, with prioritization for sustaining and expanding programming and community-based services described in the Plan;
3. Instruct the Director to report back every 180 days with an update on implementation of the Plan to elevate the arts for justice-involved individuals, and any recommended next steps;

SUBSTITUTE MOTION BY SUPERVISORS RIDLEY-THOMAS AND KUEHL

March 10, 2020

PAGE 3

4. Instruct the Director, in consultation with the CEO, to conduct an analysis as it relates to the Department's ability to address/meet goals identified in the Plan with existing resources and report back in writing in 90 days.

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