

MOTION BY SUPERVISORS JANICE HAHN
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April 4, 2023

Proclaim April 2023 as Arts month and Support for Arts Education

The benefits of the arts are many which everyone deserves to have equal access to them. In a County as ethnically and culturally diverse, as well as, geographically sprawling as Los Angeles, it is our responsibility to ensure that all the benefits of, and opportunities provided by the arts are available and accessible to all residents, no matter who they are or where they live.

From school children to seniors, the arts have been proven to make individual lives better and strengthen communities. They improve health and well-being, and they improve cognitive skills. Even more, the arts can bring people together across demographic, economic, and social lines. The arts places where people can both see and express themselves. It provides the opportunity for them to see their communities and their cultures reflected in public performances, cultural activities, and exhibitions.

The LA County Arts Commission (Commission) was established in 1947 to support local music performances. Its role has grown to support diverse art forms and function as a full-service local arts agency. In 2019, the Board of Supervisors (Board) transitioned the Commission to the newly created Department of Arts and Culture (Department) with a charge to develop comprehensive programs and policy on arts and culture on behalf of

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the County.

Over the course of its 75-year body of work, the Arts Commission and now, the department has dramatically increased the scale and reach of its work. In its first-ever grant cycle, it funded six organizations; its latest grant cycles reached over 550 Los Angeles County (County) nonprofit arts organizations, cultural providers, and public schools. The Department has granted, in total, over \$100M to the arts and culture field. The Civic Art division (Civic Art), which in its first year of documented work (2006-2007) commissioned 22 artists and completed 3 projects, this year managed 169 active projects and completed 47 projects across the County. Civic Art oversees and cares for over 500 artworks at over 90 County facilities, including new civic art commissions, donations, and art purchases. The Department has commissioned 182 artists since the Board's adoption of the Civic Art Policy in 2004. Steered by the launch of CEII, the Department's Research and Evaluation division, has completed 35 projects related to diversity, equity, inclusion, and access to the arts. More than 2,500 students have received paid internships through the Arts Internship Program, contributing to over 1 million hours of work in the field. The Arts Education division began its work in 2002 and to date, 74 of 80 school districts plus 5 charter school networks have officially joined the Arts Ed Collective which the division manages, annually serving 1 million students. Nearly 3,000 youth are served each year through cross agency partnerships that embed healing-centered arts-based youth development into County systems and into communities disproportionately impacted by the criminal justice system, foster care system, and poverty, as part of the larger County effort around justice reform and systems-change. Through all this work, the Department has supported hundreds of nonprofit arts organizations that promote the health, wellbeing, engagement, and education of our communities and that collectively provided over 13 million visits--arts experiences at museums, performances, arts centers, and arts

activities--to our communities each year, pre-pandemic. Through the Department's work we've helped our County creative economy grow to be a \$200B annual sector and with an arts and cultural ecosystem that continues to grow and evolve.

The County has invested meaningfully in arts and culture for more than a century. However, more work is necessary to solidify gains made, expand our programs, resources, and investments, and increase access to the arts and its many benefits for all residents – as part of our ongoing expansion and dynamic shift toward cultural and racial equity. We celebrate all that our Arts Commission and Department have achieved and look forward to continuing to build for the next 75 years and beyond.

The Department of Arts and Culture's Arts Education Division (Division) advances the vision of the Board-adopted LA County Regional Blueprint for Arts Education: that every young person in LA County engages in the arts all year, every year, because the arts are fundamental to human growth and development. The Division coordinates the County Arts Education Collective, a national model of collective impact in arts education that is comprised of a broad coalition of partners including the Los Angeles County Office of Education, school districts and charter school networks, arts organizations, teaching artists, educators, philanthropists, other County agencies, and advocates, all united in a regional effort to advance arts education in schools and in communities. The Advancement Grant Program (Grants Program) offers flexible matching grants to support school districts that are committed to providing quality arts education. However, the Program and the staff that administers it are underwritten by philanthropic support and are subject to significant fluctuations in available funding.

In 2022-23, the Arts Ed Collective offered \$921,450 in financial support to 40 school districts including three charter networks through the Advancement Grant program. Priority points are awarded for school districts with higher student enrollment,

and those serving a higher percentage of students in the Unduplicated Pupil Count (foster youth, English language learners, and those eligible for free/reduced-price meals.) To date, the Arts Ed Collective has awarded \$7.5M in grants to 67 school districts and charter networks, which have a combined enrollment of 627,245 students. These awards have leveraged a total of \$14.8M in matching funds.

With the passage of Proposition 28, also known as the Arts and Music K-12 Education Funding Initiative, California public schools anticipate receiving about \$1 billion in funding each year to increase arts instruction in public schools, with a portion of funding allocated to serve economically disadvantaged students, 80% allocated to employ teachers, and remaining funds for training, supplies, and education partnerships. With this additional funding, we expect an increase in the demand to the Department for programs and services, including coaching support to create and update arts education plans, and the Grants Program which help ensure arts learning gets implemented for County youth in our schools.

WE, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

1. Direct the Chief Executive Officer to report back during the FY 2023-24 Supplemental Changes budget on matching philanthropy's investment in the LA County Arts Ed Collective by funding \$1.05M ongoing to Arts and Culture to activate Countywide Cultural Policy Strategic Plan Strategy 10: Support School Districts to Advance Equity in Arts Education which includes programmatic costs of \$850,000 and one (1) Sr. Program Associate at \$199,000;
2. Proclaim April 2023 as Arts Month in the County of Los Angeles and recognize the contributions of artists, arts administrators, arts organizations, culture bearers, and arts educators throughout the County and solidify the County's commitment to promoting the arts, cultural equity and inclusion, and the Department of Arts and Culture;

3. Encourage County Departments to share information about Arts and Culture opportunities to their constituents and on their social media throughout the month in partnership with the Department of Arts and Culture.

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