



**PUBLIC REQUEST TO ADDRESS  
THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA**

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

HILDA L. SOLIS  
HOLLY J. MITCHELL  
LINDSEY P. HORVATH  
JANICE HAHN  
KATHRYN BARGER

**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
13.		<b>Favor</b>	Abel Miramontes	
			Alis Odenthal	The Arts provide wonderful opportunities to experience a wide range of activities which can be enjoyed by young and old. I support this item and the activities which it proposes. They will benefit residents countywide, from the smallest communities to the largest cities.
			Amy Dorn	
			Bridget Healy	Thank you for your past and current support of the performing arts. Inland Valley Repertory Theatre prides itself on enriching, entertaining, empowering and employing the local community through outstanding productions. We encourage the Board to support the arts in all communities, especially in this post Covid era of multiple theatre closings.
			Carla Corona	I write with strong support to pass this motion to galvanize communities in support of the arts. The arts are essential to any and every community. They build bridges and help expose individuals to the power and diversity of the arts. Thank you.
			Christine I Hayes-Shaner	
			Donna Marie Minano	As a musician, music educator, arts administrator, parent, and grandparent, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of the arts on infants, youth, adults, the elderly, the incarcerated, and the neurodiverse. I am strongly in favor of galvanizing communities in support of the arts. Here in the United States, where flash and volume rule, the arts have a humanizing effect; the arts connects us to our humanity. Music, theatre, dance, performing arts, visual arts, digital arts: these are what makes our lives beautiful. Please support this vital motion.
			Douglas S Jessop	
			Frank Minano	
			Genevieve M Clavreul	
			Jason Caudle	
			Julia Rodriguez-Elliott	
			Keri Smith	
Kristin Slaysman				



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The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
13.		<b>Favor</b>	Larissa Nickel	<p>Congratulations to the Department of Arts and Culture and Arts Commission on its 75th anniversary, and to the Arts Education Collective's 20th anniversary!</p> <p>The arts have proven results in impacting mental and emotional health, including social engagement and a sense of belonging to community. They are an economic generator, and a means of representation for all to share their unique stories in order to build empathy and connections.</p> <p>The County should continue to center cultural equity which Americans for the Arts defines as "embodying the values, policies, and practices that ensure that all people—including but not limited to those who have been historically underrepresented based on race/ethnicity, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, socioeconomic status, geography, citizenship status, or religion—are represented in the development of arts policy; the support of artists; the nurturing of accessible, thriving venues for expression; and the fair distribution of programmatic, financial, and informational resources."</p> <p>Every individual deserves equal access to art experiences as an essential human right. Thank you Supervisor Barger for your motion, and I ask the Board to continue to expand arts access throughout the County including unincorporated regions.</p>
			LaVona Sherrills	
			Leslie A Ito	The arts in LA County are inextricably tied to the culture, economy, education, well-being, and daily life of people. We are a stronger County when the arts and artists are supported. Thank you for your continued support for our work.
			Liane Weintraub	



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**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:				
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments
13.		Favor	Melanie Buttarazzi	<p>To: County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors,</p> <p>I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the motion "Galvanizing Communities in Supporting the Arts." As the director of Fostering Dreams Project, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of the arts, and particularly, dance, in our communities.</p> <p>The arts have the unique ability to bridge divides, foster inclusivity, and ignite a sense of belonging among individuals from diverse backgrounds. Through our programs and initiatives, we have seen the profound impact that dance can have on the physical and emotional well-being of our participants, promoting mental health and self-expression.</p> <p>Moreover, the arts play a vital role in the cultural and economic vitality of our communities. They attract tourism, stimulate local businesses, and create job opportunities. By galvanizing communities to support the arts, we not only enrich the lives of our residents but also strengthen the very fabric of our society.</p> <p>I support this motion, recognizing the invaluable contribution the arts make to our communities.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely, Melanie Buttarazzi, Fostering Dreams Project</p>
			nancy bianconi	
			Patrick McMahon	
			Rachel S Moore	
			Stephen McCurry	See attached letter of support
			Stephen C Neptune	
			Steve Siegel	
			Steven Llanusa	I strongly support locally made art — perhaps more than any other format — because it helps us to understand and empathize with one another. More than that, local art helps cultivate a sense of cultural identity.
			Steven L Morris	Please see attached document



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**CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED**

		The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item:			
Agenda #	Relate To	Position	Name	Comments	
13.		<b>Favor</b>	Tiffany Berg	The arts are so important, please vote in favor!	
			Vincent Polito		
			Vonetta N Mixson		
		<b>Oppose</b>			
		<b>Other</b>			
		<b>Item Total</b>		<b>30</b>	



September 28, 2023

Dear Board of Supervisors -

We applaud Supervisor Barger's motion galvanizing communities in support of the arts. For the past 32 years (first in Glendale and since 2011 in Pasadena) we have run the mid-sized theatre A Noise Within. Without a doubt these past 3 and a half years have been the most difficult we have faced.

Over these years we have seen many of our fellow arts organizations have to close their doors to a community that has benefitted immeasurably from their services. We would not have survived without Federal and LA County support. We were one of the 40 fortunate organizations mentioned in this motion who received funding recently. Without this funding we would not have been able to present our most recent production, *The Bluest Eye*, which turned out to be our most successful since the pandemic welcoming our diverse community including over 1,000 students from LA County. We also benefit from the Department of Arts and Culture internship and organizational grant programs.

In order to keep ticket prices affordable and welcome everyone through our doors we need continued government support.

We join Supervisor Barger in recognizing the essential work the Department of Arts and Culture and the Arts Education Collective have accomplished for LA County. Without this funding we couldn't accomplish this work.

Please approve this motion so that these organizations are recognized for their work and can continue to enrich the lives of our students and our community.

Thanks,



Geoff Elliott, Co-Artistic Director



Julia Rodriguez-Elliott, Co-Artistic Director



100 North Hill Avenue, Pasadena, CA 91106  
phone: 626.683.3355 fax: 626.683.3303  
e-mail: [music@pasadenaconservatory.org](mailto:music@pasadenaconservatory.org)  
web: [pasadenaconservatory.org](http://pasadenaconservatory.org)

To the LA County Board of Supervisors:

The Pasadena Conservatory of Music (PCM) is pleased to submit this letter in support of the motion presented to you by the Office of Supervisor Kathryn Barger. The motion to Galvanize Communities in Support of the Arts is admirable and will provide critical support to local arts organizations as we continue to recover and rebuild from losses incurred by the pandemic.

As a community music school, PCM provides opportunities to learn, perform, and enjoy music ranging from Western Classical to Jazz to Global Music traditions. We provide myriad opportunities to engage with music, including individual instruction, group classes, and public performances.

During the pandemic, PCM experienced a 30% decline in enrollment schoolwide, with certain programs hit harder than others. For example, our Young Musicians program serving PCM's preschool population dropped by 75%; it has been the slowest program to return to pre pandemic levels. Other programs delivered in group formats have also been hard hit. In particular Jazz and World Music – two programs that serve our most diverse populations.

The inspiration to engage local communities and the creativity and innovation demonstrated by this motion are the efforts most needed in helping arts organizations like PCM rebuild and thrive in this new environment. We are deeply grateful to our Supervisor, Kathryn Barger, and the LA County Board of Supervisors for their continued leadership in supporting the arts, providing Angelenos with valuable and meaningful opportunities to connect with art and with each other.

Thank you for your consideration of this motion.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Stephen McCurry". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Stephen McCurry  
Executive Director

EST. 1983

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CITY MANAGER

44933 Fern Avenue  
Lancaster, CA 93534  
661.723.6000  
[cityoflancasterca.org](http://cityoflancasterca.org)

**September 28, 2023**

LA County Board of Supervisors  
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

**RE: Motion to Galvanize Communities in Support of the Arts**

Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing today to support a motion for ***Galvanizing Communities in Support of the Arts***. The City of Lancaster and Lancaster Performing Arts Center fully support this motion, along with many local residents who are invested in the arts.

The arts are inextricably tied to the culture, economy, education, well-being, and daily life of people in every corner of Los Angeles County. When audiences support the arts, it not only directly benefits arts organizations but impacts other sectors as well. For example, attending arts programs has been found to have social and psychological benefits, including social engagement and a sense of belonging to one's community, crime reduction, and improved educational outcomes.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a devastating impact on the performing arts, and many arts organizations are still struggling to recover. That is why it is more important than ever to support our local arts organizations and to make arts as accessible as possible for the benefit of both the sector and residents.



I respectfully request that the Board of Supervisors approve the *Galvanizing Communities in Support of the Arts* motion; I believe it is a valuable step towards ensuring that the arts continue to thrive in Los Angeles County for many years to come. I urge you to approve it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "R. Rex Parris" with a small "Mayor" underneath. The signature is written in a cursive style.

R. Rex Parris, Mayor, City of Lancaster





October 2, 2023

Dear Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors,

As the Founding Editor of Stage Raw ([stageraw.com](http://stageraw.com)), I'm writing in support of Supervisor Barger's Arts Support Motion.

Supported by advertising and donations, Stage Raw is a digital magazine, now in its 10<sup>th</sup> year, focused on Southern California theaters. Stage Raw reviews, lists and otherwise discusses live performances weekly, with a team of professional (paid) writers, some of whom are veterans of the now skeletal *LA Times* and the *LA Weekly* theater departments. Stage Raw has also supplemented its stable of talent with a new generation of diverse writers.

I'm not writing to underscore the benefit the performing arts provide to local businesses. That fact has been measured and proven to be demonstrably true by multiple sources, including Californians for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Arts. Ignoring the obvious benefit of the arts to local businesses by allowing local theaters to founder defies logic, if not sanity.

I'm writing first to let you know that over the past 10 years, according to Stage Raw listings data, the number of productions regionwide has dropped precipitously over the past decade by 40% - 50%. This is dreary news not just for the theaters, but for local economies they support. There are multiple reasons for this decline, which I won't detail here, other to say that the effects of COVID, combined with soaring production/labor costs have been devastating to the local sector in a microcosm of what's been observed nation-wide.

I'm writing secondly to report on the results of a survey Stage Raw conducted of 153 patrons and 22 theaters, mostly based in Los Angeles County. These results came in last month. One-third of local patrons reported that they've cut back on theater attendance. One could argue that two-thirds still attend regularly. However, that one-third has been felt at box offices region-wide, compounding financial challenges. The reasons are varied, from fear of Covid, to parking challenges, to clogged roadways, etc. Among the major reasons cited is financial hardship. The costs of tickets even in smaller venues has become out of the reach of many patrons who are theater-lovers, and would attend if they could afford it. These theaters are not gouging in response to higher costs. From the budgets they submitted to Stage Raw, it's evident that they are budgeting productions to lose money. Their question used to be: Can we break even on this, or even make a little money? That question has devolved to: How much can we afford to lose on a show, even if it brings full houses?

Our performing arts need and deserve financial patronage, and LA County has been among the prime movers of such patronage, thanks to the work of the Department of Arts and Culture.

From our view at Stage Raw, Supervisor Barger's Motion would provide essential relief with the larger aim of revitalizing, in one sweep, LA County's worthy artistic sector, and the many, many businesses and industries it supports.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized, cursive 'S' followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Steven Leigh Morris  
Founding Editor, Stage Raw  
stageraw.com  
(323) 384-1929



# PALMDALE

*a place to call home*

September 28, 2023

LAURA BETTENCOURT  
*Mayor*

ANDREA ALARCÓN  
*Mayor Pro Tem*

RICHARD J. LOA  
*Councilmember*

AUSTIN BISHOP  
*Councilmember*

ERIC OHLSEN  
*Councilmember*

LA County Board of Supervisors  
500 West Temple St., Room 869  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Motion to Recognize the Department of Arts Commission's  
75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the Arts Education Collective's 20<sup>th</sup>  
Anniversary and their achievements

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## Notice of SUPPORT

Dear L.A. County District Supervisors,

38300 Sierra Highway

Palmdale, CA 93550-4798

Tel: 661/267-5100

TDD: 661/267-5167

The City of Palmdale, the Palmdale Playhouse, and The Palmdale Public Art Commission are pleased to support the motion recognizing the anniversaries of the Los Angeles County Department of Arts Commission and the Arts Education Collective and their many years of achievement in promoting the arts throughout the County of Los Angeles.

We relate to the section in the motion about the County's experience during the COVID-19 pandemic; the loss of art programming affected everyone. Our community art programs, especially the Palmdale Playhouse, took a heavy hit during the pandemic. Residents had relied on the various programs and shows we offered and were at a loss when we had to close. The financial impact was especially felt due to lost rentals and ticket sales, and local theatre groups are just now regaining momentum. It has been a long road to recovery, and we are glad to say we are back, providing youth theatre programs, art exhibits, music, and plays for our community.

Passing the motion will bring further recognition of art's impact on everyone's lives. Art brings together cultural and artistic resources that foster economic development and tourism, revitalize urban areas, and improve the business climate by creating a desirable community to live and work in. It showcases the community's multi-ethnic background by providing an outlet for expression and engagement.

Focus on artistic achievements creates an environment of harmony and balance, unifying the world through art.

LA County Board of Supervisors  
Notice of Support of Motion  
September 28, 2023  
Page 2

The City of Palmdale is grateful for all the work Los Angeles County has done to cultivate the art community, and we share in the need to expand programming so everyone can experience it.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Keri Smith". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Keri" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Smith".

Keri Smith, Director  
Department of Parks and Recreation



135 N. Grand Avenue  
Los Angeles, CA 90012  
musiccenter.org

Rachel S. Moore  
President  
Chief Executive Officer

September 29, 2023

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Re: Galvanizing Communities in Support of the Arts, Agenda #13, October 3, 2023

Dear Supervisors,

I am writing on behalf of The Music Center to convey our support of the Motion by Supervisor Kathryn Barger, "Galvanizing Communities in Support of the Arts," which both honors the anniversaries of the Department of Arts and Culture and the Arts Education Collective, as well as encourages County departments to support public outreach and awareness building of arts programming across the County. As we continue to build back following the peak of the pandemic, it has never been a better time for solidarity among Los Angeles County arts organizations. Continuing to leverage cross-promotional opportunities and partnership across sectors with LA County departments and LA Metro are also excellent pathways toward improving the arts field's engagement with and service to County residents.

The Music Center looks forward to participating in this effort and is grateful for the County's unwavering commitment to uplifting the value of the arts, increasing equitable access to cultural programming, and recognizing the arts organizations that transform lives every day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachel". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Rachel S. Moore  
President & Chief Executive Officer



To: County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for the motion "Galvanizing Communities in Supporting the Arts." As the director of Fostering Dreams Project, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of the arts, and particularly, dance, in our communities.

The arts have the unique ability to bridge divides, foster inclusivity, and ignite a sense of belonging among individuals from diverse backgrounds. Through our programs and initiatives, we have seen the profound impact that dance can have on the physical and emotional well-being of our participants, promoting mental health and self-expression.

Moreover, the arts play a vital role in the cultural and economic vitality of our communities. They attract tourism, stimulate local businesses, and create job opportunities. By galvanizing communities to support the arts, we not only enrich the lives of our residents but also strengthen the very fabric of our society.

I support this motion, recognizing the invaluable contribution the arts make to our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Melanie Buttarazzi, Fostering Dreams Project

October 2, 2023

Kathryn Barger, 5<sup>th</sup> District Supervisor  
Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors  
500 West Temple Street, Room 869  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

RE: Support of Motion: Galvanizing Communities in Support of the Arts

Dear Supervisor Barger:

In the nineties, a North Hollywood area now called the NoHo Arts District was experiencing a serious economic downward spiral plagued with blight, crime and closure of many local businesses. Through the joint efforts of government agencies, community organizations, arts groups and local businesses, the NoHo Arts District was created. In 2000, METRO opened the Redline station and Community Redevelopment Agency of the City of Los Angeles contracted with my firm to develop a sustainable theatre and arts district. My firm and our community brought in 35 new theatres, galleries, music studios, dance and acting schools. NoHo had the largest concentration of theatres in a square mile with the exception of New York City. After 18 years, the NoHo Arts District had grown into a cultural tourist and entertainment destination.

When Covid happened, NoHo was devastated. We lost 50% of our theatres, galleries, dance and acting schools and 20% of our restaurants. To date, NoHo has not rebounded and I fear that businesses will continue to close. Theatres are selling an average of only 35% of their seats per performance...Subscriptions are not being sold...there is a 50% drop in production rentals...show production costs have gone up between 25% and 35%. In addition, there has been a huge increase in crime and homeless living in tents on the sidewalks. With limited parking in the area, many people rely on the Metro Orange/Red Line which has attracted high amounts of crime to the area. Arts patrons are afraid to frequent the area and group student travel has dropped by 50% due to our blighted conditions. When people stop going to theatre, gallery openings, classes, all businesses - local restaurants, retail stores, movie theatres will face financial loss.

The City of Los Angeles was founded on the entertainment business and would not be the largest and most culturally diverse population in the country without it.



Supervisor Barger, on behalf of the NoHo Arts District, I want to thank you for developing this motion that will lead the way to financial recovery and solvency for performing and visual arts within the County/City of Los Angeles.

Sincerely,



Nancy Bianconi  
President/CEO

NoHo Communications Group, Inc.

[nohoartsdistrict.com](http://nohoartsdistrict.com) | [nancy@nohoartsdistrict.com](mailto:nancy@nohoartsdistrict.com)

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