



**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**

| Agenda #   | Relate To | Position | Name               | Comments  |
|--|-----------|----------|--------------------|---|
| The following individuals submitted comments on agenda item: |           |          |                    |   |
| 3.   |           | Favor    | Arlen Ohara        |   |
|  |           |          | Carla Corona       | I would like to fully support this motion to help bolster Arts Education throughout LA County. Especially, with the influx of dollars from Prop 28 it is most important that school districts, community organizations, and arts educators understand the impacts and implementation for these monies to support our K-12 children. |
|  |           |          | Douglas Love-Ramos | See attached Statement  |
|  |           |          | Gail Panatier      |   |
|  |           |          | Gale Jaffe         | I urge the Supervisors to support arts education county wide. I volunteer for the Nine O'Clock Players Theatre for Children. We see first had the joy and enthusiasm for learning that art can generate in young lives. Please support the motion presented by Kathryn Barger.  |



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|----|--|--------------|-----------------|--|
| 3. |  | <b>Favor</b> | Irina Voloshina | <p>Public Comment in Support of Item 3: Bolstering Arts Education During Arts Education Week and Beyond</p> <p>Dear Board of Supervisors,</p> <p>My name is Irina Voloshina, and I am the founder of Melodia Mariposa, a nonprofit that creates intimate classical music events, engaging diverse communities and fostering appreciation and education across all ages. I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Item 3 of Supervisor Kathryn Barger's motion, which directs the Department of Arts and Culture to lead conversations about Proposition 28 and explore additional opportunities to support school districts with this critical funding.</p> <p>Proposition 28 represents a historic investment in arts education, allocating nearly \$1 billion annually to enhance and expand arts programs in California's public schools. This funding strengthens music education and performance opportunities for students, which are crucial for their academic and personal development. Music education nurtures creativity, critical thinking, discipline, and cultural understanding—skills essential for success both in and out of the classroom.</p> <p>At Melodia Mariposa, we are committed to advancing music education through our performances. By providing opportunities for young artists and communities to engage with classical music, we help foster a lifelong appreciation for the arts and support their growth and well-being. Through our outreach concerts, we have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of music. Young artists not only participate in our concerts as performers but also as audience members and participants in our educational programs. These experiences allow them to develop their artistic skills, gain confidence, and find a sense of belonging, and help them grow both personally and artistically.</p> <p>The Department of Arts and Culture's role in leading discussions about Prop 28 and exploring ways to support districts with this funding is crucial. By facilitating these conversations and providing resources, the Department will help ensure schools can effectively utilize the funds to expand their arts programs and hire qualified arts educators. This will maximize the impact of Prop 28 and contribute to a robust arts education ecosystem across Los Angeles County.</p> <p>Melodia Mariposa fully supports the initiative to enhance arts education through Prop 28 and urges the Board to continue advocating for and supporting these efforts. We strongly encourage the Board to support Supervisor Barger's motion and direct the Department of Arts and Culture to continue leading these critical efforts. Investing in arts education not only enriches the lives of students but also strengthens our communities by fostering creativity and cultural engagement.</p> <p>Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued commitment to advancing arts education in our county.</p> <p>?Irina Voloshina?<br/>Founder, Melodia Mariposa<br/><a href="http://melodiamariposa.org/">melodiamariposa.org/</a></p> |
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| Agenda #   | Relate To | Position | Name            | Comments   |
| 3.   |           | Favor    | Jim Miller      | At A Noise Within, we firmly believe in the paramount importance of arts education. This season, we are proud to collaborate with over 200 schools across LA County, presenting 31 student matinees. Our longstanding partnership with the LA County Department of Arts and Culture's internship program has been invaluable. We enthusiastically endorse the enhancement of Arts Education Week, and fully support the comprehensive objectives of this initiative. Early exposure to the arts has consistently demonstrated its efficacy in broadening intellectual development and enriching knowledge.   |
|  |           |          | Lee Taylor      | Arts education transforms lives and should not be optional. We see the results of arts education every day in the work we do. It builds community and empowers young people.   |
|  |           |          | Leticia Buckley | Prop 28 is a significant step towards providing much-needed resources to communities. It is critical that communities participate in the decision-making process to ensure that those resources are equitably distributed.   |
|  |           |          | Matthew Keating | Thanks for all your hard work and dedication to the Arts, Kathryn!   |
|  |           |          | Michael McKee   | <p>From Danny Feldman, Producing Artistic Director, Pasadena Playhouse State Theater of California.</p> <p>I support the motion put forth by Supervisor Kathryn Barger, Agenda Item 3, Bolstering Arts Education During Arts Education Week and Beyond. The Pasadena Playhouse State Theater of California continues to increase arts education opportunities and accessibility for youth ages 0-18, developed for the arts education needs of Pasadena Unified School District students and youth across Los Angeles County. According to anecdotal and statistical data collected by the Arts Education team at Pasadena Playhouse, the need for arts education is paramount, and the benefits are significant. It is crucial that we all continue to support and engage in arts education programs to ensure the well-rounded development of our youth.</p> <p>The Playhouse reached over 13,000 children and family members with its Youth &amp; Family Programming (YFP) during the 2023/24 season. In October, more than 2,500 people attended the first-ever Playhouse Family Play Day (all ages), a free family-oriented block party announcing the inaugural year of YFP. Grumpy Monkey: The Musical was created for young children (ages 4-8) and enjoyed by 7,887 audience members—including 3,176 students from every elementary school in PUSD who attended free student matinees and 800 students who experienced a pre- or post-show classroom workshop. Wheels on the Bus was developed for toddlers and preschoolers (ages 1-4), and 1,930 children and caregivers participated in this interactive theater experience. Of the 144 students (ages 7-12) who attended the Playhouse Players after-school classes and summer camps, 31% received some scholarship. Forty-four junior and high school students (ages 12-18) attended</p> |

|                    |  |                   |   |
|--------------------|--|-------------------|---|
|                    |  |                   | <p>Musical Theater Bootcamp this summer, with 50% on some form of scholarship.</p> <p>Pasadena Playhouse continues to partner with Pasadena Unified School District (PUSD) to amplify its impact. Of the 14,152 students enrolled in PUSD, 69.8% are socio-economically disadvantaged, and 81% are students of color. With donor and foundation support, the Playhouse provides free student matinees for PUSD students and scholarships for children to attend classes and camps outside of school. In addition, PUSD high school students are invited to participate in the Playhouse Teen Alliance. This free program exposes students to theater skills and career pathways they might not otherwise experience.</p> <p>As evidenced by participant and parental feedback in our Youth and Family Programming Impact Report, 81% of teachers and parents agreed that the programming "enhanced the learning experience for [their] students." We could not have made this work possible without the support of the County Board of Supervisors and the Los Angeles Department of Arts and Culture.</p> <p>We are eager to assist the LA Department of Arts and Culture in achieving 100% participation of school districts by continuing to create opportunities for schools and their students to engage in the arts education programming across LA Country, including La Cañada, Bonita, Bellflower, Long Beach, and El Segundo. We also encourage the Department of Arts and Culture to continue engaging schools and local organizations in leading conversations and participation regarding implementing Prop 28, the "Arts and Music in Schools Funding Guarantee and Accountability Act." The Pasadena Playhouse State Theater of California will continue to collect data, reflect on successes, and communicate the benefits of arts education in schools and our communities.</p> |
|                    |  | Rachel S Moore    | At The Music Center, we know that arts engagement has the power to favorably transform lives. Our efforts are driven by the evidence that with the right elements, arts engagement positively impacts learning and strengthens peoples' sense of social connection, well-being and belonging. We are grateful for the County of Los Angeles's recognition of arts education, arts education week and The Music Center's arts learning programs that not only deepen the lives of young people, but also contribute to a stronger Los Angeles County community. We are honored to be named among this array of excellent arts education programs.  |
|                    |  | <b>Other</b>      | MONIQUE J Diaz  |
|                    |  | <b>Item Total</b> | <b>13</b>   |
| <b>Grand Total</b> |  |                   | <b>13</b>   |

## **Public Comment in Support of Item 3: Bolstering Arts Education During Arts Education Week and Beyond**

Dear Board of Supervisors,

My name is Irina Voloshina, and I am the founder of Melodia Mariposa, a nonprofit that creates intimate classical music events, engaging diverse communities and fostering appreciation and education across all ages. I am writing to express my enthusiastic support for Item 3 of Supervisor Kathryn Barger's motion, which directs the Department of Arts and Culture to lead conversations about Proposition 28 and explore additional opportunities to support school districts with this critical funding.

Proposition 28 represents a historic investment in arts education, allocating nearly \$1 billion annually to enhance and expand arts programs in California's public schools. This funding strengthens music education and performance opportunities for students, which are crucial for their academic and personal development. Music education nurtures creativity, critical thinking, discipline, and cultural understanding—skills essential for success both in and out of the classroom.

At Melodia Mariposa, we are committed to advancing music education through our performances. By providing opportunities for young artists and communities to engage with classical music, we help foster a lifelong appreciation for the arts and support their growth and well-being. Through our outreach concerts, we have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of music. Young artists not only participate in our concerts as performers but also as audience members and participants in our educational programs. These experiences allow them to develop their artistic skills, gain confidence, and find a sense of belonging, and help them grow both personally and artistically.

The Department of Arts and Culture's role in leading discussions about Prop 28 and exploring ways to support districts with this funding is crucial. By facilitating these conversations and providing resources, the Department will help ensure schools can effectively utilize the funds to expand their arts programs and hire qualified arts educators. This will maximize the impact of Prop 28 and contribute to a robust arts education ecosystem across Los Angeles County.

Melodia Mariposa fully supports the initiative to enhance arts education through Prop 28 and urges the Board to continue advocating for and supporting these efforts. We strongly encourage the Board to support Supervisor Barger's motion and direct the Department of Arts and Culture to continue leading these critical efforts. Investing in arts education not only enriches the lives of students but also strengthens our communities by fostering creativity and cultural engagement.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter and for your continued commitment to advancing arts education in our county.

Sincerely,  
Irina Voloshina  
Founder, Melodia Mariposa

<https://melodiamariposa.org/>



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tel: 626.356.3100 | fax: 626.356.3120  
anoisewithin.org

Statement of Support:

**Bolstering Arts Education During Arts Education Week and Beyond**

At Noise Within Theatre in Pasadena, we wholeheartedly celebrate Arts Education week commemorating our many years of changing students' lives through live professional theatre. Each year we welcome more than 18,000 students from 200+ schools to see our productions – often it is first time they have ever seen a play. Our free teacher guides use our productions as a jumping off point into Standards-based curriculum and have come to be an important teaching tool for thousands of educators.

We know that students who have arts education are more well-rounded and equipped to face today's life challenges – but also excel in core subjects and ignite a lifelong appreciation. At this point in our history, we now have subscribers, guest artists and employees who first came to know A Noise Within Theatre by attending our productions with their classes when they were in school. Our support from LA County Department of Arts and Culture and Supervisor Barger has helped sustain and grow our educational programs that have made a difference in the lives of so many students for more than three decades.

Sincerely,

Douglas Love-Ramos  
Managing Director