

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HILDA L. SOLIS

April 14, 2026

Celebrating 20 Years of Arts for LA and Advancing Cultural Equity Through the Creative Jobs Collective

The creative economy is a cornerstone of California’s economic strength and cultural identity, supporting a significant share of jobs while generating outsized impact. Prior analyses estimate it contributes nearly 15 percent of the state’s economy and more than \$194 billion in tax revenue. Yet, according to the [2026 Otis College Report on the Creative Economy](#), the sector is facing growing instability, with approximately 114,000 jobs lost since 2022, a 14 percent decline driven by industry restructuring and rising costs. This growing gap between the sector’s economic contribution and the precarity of its workforce underscores the urgent need for coordinated, equity-centered investments that stabilize careers and expand access to opportunity.

Los Angeles County has taken a leading role in advancing equitable access to arts and culture through efforts such as the [Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative \(CEII\)](#), which led to the [Countywide Cultural Policy](#) and began addressing longstanding inequities in resources, opportunities, and representation for communities of color, low-income communities, immigrants, and other historically marginalized groups. This work has laid an important foundation, but sustained progress requires strong partnerships

MOTION

Mitchell _____

Horvath _____

Hahn _____

Barger _____

Solis _____

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and continued leadership from the field.

For the past two decades, Arts for LA has brought together artists, cultural workers, and communities to influence public policy, strengthen civic participation, and advance equity and inclusion in the arts. Its leadership has helped elevate community voice and align arts and culture with broader County priorities in equity, workforce development, and economic justice. The ACTIVATE leadership program has further strengthened these efforts by training a diverse cohort of cultural advocates equipped to lead policy and systems change.

The organization has also developed solutions to address the economic challenges facing the sector. Despite ongoing progress, many artists and cultural workers continue to face instability, limited access to quality jobs, and persistent structural barriers. In response, Arts for LA launched the [Creative Jobs Collective \(CJC\)](#), an initiative focused on equitable workforce development by creating pathways to quality jobs, strengthening employer engagement, and improving systems that connect workers to opportunity.

This work has received strong support from Los Angeles County leadership. In 2023, First District Supervisor Hilda L. Solis and Third District Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath advanced the Creative Jobs Collective through a [motion](#) directing a report on its recommendations. A 2024 presentation before the Board of Supervisors showcased [eight recommendations](#) from the County's Departments of Economic Opportunity and

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Arts and Culture, developed in partnership with Arts for LA, which are now being implemented.

Grounded in the principles of CEII, the CJC centers equity, access, and inclusion in its approach. To date, it has engaged 95 employers and secured 195 job placement commitments for creative workers, including both W-2 and 1099 opportunities, while developing key tools such as an employer toolkit, job tracking systems, and a Cultural Asset Map.

Beyond direct workforce strategies, this effort is also helping to drive broader systems change. By aligning with County and statewide policy efforts, improving public sector contracting and payment processes, and strengthening cross-sector partnerships, the CJC is working to embed arts and culture into the region's broader equity and economic development framework.

As Los Angeles County continues to implement its Countywide Cultural Policy and build on the legacy of CEII, Arts for LA's 20 years of leadership remain essential to expanding opportunity and reducing disparities. Its work ensures that the benefits of the creative economy are shared equitably across all communities. This milestone provides an opportunity to recognize the organization's sustained impact and reaffirm the County's commitment to a creative ecosystem that reflects, includes, and serves all Angelenos.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors:

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1. Celebrate the 20th Anniversary of Arts for LA by proclaiming April 2026 as Arts for LA 20th Anniversary Month, honoring its leadership in advancing equity, inclusion, and access in the arts across Los Angeles County. This also acknowledges the contributions of its staff, members, advocates, and community partners, who have strengthened civic engagement and elevated community voice in arts and cultural policy.
2. Recognize and reaffirm the County's support for the Creative Jobs Collective as a model for equitable workforce development within the creative economy, aligned with the goals of the Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative and the Countywide Cultural Policy.

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