

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR HOLLY J. MITCHELL

May 12, 2026

Avoiding the Disruption of Arts and Culture Services in Probation Camps and Halls

The Los Angeles County (County) Department of Arts and Culture (DAC) has been delivering arts programming to youth in all seven Probation camps and halls since 2014. DAC contracts with 12 community-based organizations that provide healing-centered instruction in music, dance, theatre, poetry, visual arts, and craft. Several programs also offer workforce training in creative fields, including music production and muralism.

DAC service providers also deliver training and professional development for Probation and County staff in camps and halls, equipping them with resources and supports that foster positive culture shifts conducive to youth rehabilitation.

The arts have been shown to strengthen youth development, education, creative expression, skill-building, social connection, and opportunities for healing and processing trauma, all of which support key needs for justice-involved youth and the County’s care-first and youth justice goals. Over the years, services have continued to expand to meet the needs of the youth in Probation’s care.

These services are funded through Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (JJCPA) resources administered by Probation and the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) to support the Department’s Arts in Institutions Program, through which DAC contracts with its community-based partners to deliver services. DAC has built the

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administrative infrastructure necessary to scale services to match JJCPA allocations and, as a result, can reliably administer a high volume of services to meet Probation's requests.

Over 200 arts programming sessions are delivered each week across all seven Probation camps and halls, Juvenile Day Reporting Centers, and continuation high schools, with the majority of services—more than 80 sessions per week — delivered at Los Padrinos.

In Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-26, the cost of Arts in Institutions Programs has outpaced DAC's available funding. As of May 1, 2026, DAC has fully exhausted its Institutions-dedicated JJCPA resources. To maintain the current level of services through the remainder of FY 2025-26 and avoid a pause in JJCPA-funded services in May and June, DAC estimates it will require an additional \$1.2 million. DAC has proposed reallocating unspent funds from its JJCPA allocation for its separate Arts in Communities Program. These unspent funds are available due to a pause in community-based services during FY 2024-25 and FY 2025-26 while DAC strengthened systems for managing and scaling those programs. However, any re-allocation of JJCPA funds may only be authorized by the JJCC.

DAC first alerted relevant parties of the need for additional funding for its Arts in Institutions Program in October 2025 and continued to make requests to address the shortfall; however, the issue remains unresolved. Probation recently attempted to convene a meeting of the JJCC, but has faced challenges securing the quorum necessary to approve the proposed reallocation, therefore placing programming for this population at risk. If additional funding is not made available urgently, DAC will be forced to suspend the majority of services they provide in our juvenile camps and halls until a viable funding source is secured.

Further, DAC's JJCPA allocation for Arts in Institutions programming in FY 2026-27 (\$5,070,000) is significantly lower than the \$7,500,000 requested by the Department and will not be sufficient to meet the need and demand for arts programming, a critical component of services for justice-involved youth in the County's care. To maintain current service levels in FY 2026-27, the JJCC would need to consider reallocating unspent funds from DAC's Arts in Communities Program. It is critical that the JJCC operate in a manner

that reduces administrative barriers and implements solutions to support successful programming that is demonstrably benefitting the young people in our County. While there is still time for the JJCC to consider and address potential solutions for the FY 2026-27 funding shortfall, the need for FY 2025-26 requires immediate action to prevent any lapse in arts programming and ensure that youth in Probation camps and halls continue to have access to the benefits of arts and culture.

I THEREFORE MOVE THAT THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS:

1. Direct the Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council (JJCC) to convene a meeting within 10 days of approval of this motion (on or before May 22, 2026) to consider and take action on the potential reallocation of up to \$1.2 million of the Department of Arts and Culture's (DAC) unused Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act Arts in Communities Program funding to DAC's Arts in Institutions Program, in order to maintain arts programming for youth in Probation camps and halls for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2025 - 2026.
2. Direct the heads of County departments with a voting representative on the JJCC to cooperate with the Chief Probation Officer (CPO) in his efforts to promptly schedule this meeting and achieve quorum at the time that the meeting is held. This should include making their JJCC representatives available to attend the meeting, as well as assisting and supporting the CPO in securing an adequate in-person meeting space, including, but not limited to, any meeting spaces the voting representative's County department owns or controls, for the purpose of ensuring compliance with Brown Act requirements.

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