



**Arts and Culture Commission
of Contra Costa County**

SUPPORTING ALL THE ARTS

Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County 1025 Escobar Street, 4th Floor, Martinez, CA 94553
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Monday February 1, 2021 MEETING MINUTES
5:30-7:30PM (US and Canada) ZOOM Invitation

Committee Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma
Vice-Chair: At-Large-3: Joan D'Onofrio
Senior Commissioner: At-Large-1: Y'Anad Burrell
Commissioners:

District 2: Beverly Kumar

District 3: OPEN

District 4: Elizabeth Wood

District 5: OPEN

At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji

At-Large-4: Lanita Mims

***Alternate:** Pearl Parmelee Cabrera

**Alternates assist with the achievement of quorum. The alternate may sit and vote for any absent member or a vacant seat.*

Commissioners Present: Committee Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma, At-Large-4: Lanita Mims, District 2: Beverly Kumar, Vice-Chair: At-Large-3: Joan D'Onofrio, At-Large-1: Y'Anad Burrell, At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji, and District 4: Elizabeth Wood.

Commissioners Absent: Senior Commissioner: At-Large-1: Y'Anad Burrell, Alternate: Pearl Parmelee Cabrera absent till 5:56PM, and At-Large-4: Lanita Mims leaves meeting at 6:14PM.

Staff Present:

Senior Management Analyst, County Administrative Office: Monica Carlisle
Contra Costa County Arts & Culture Commission Managing Director: Jenny Balisle

Guest/Visitors Present: Jordan Fridie

Monday February 1, 2021 MEETING AGENDA 5:30-7:30PM (US and Canada) ZOOM Invitation

1. WELCOME/CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL/TIMEKEEPER: (3 minutes)

Meeting called to order and roll call by Chair Ledezma. Commissioner volunteers to be Timekeeper.

SUMMARY:

Chair District 1 Silvia Ledezma calls meeting to order at 5:35 pm. Jordan Fridie assists with timekeeping.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT: (2 minutes)

Individuals who would like to address the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County on relevant matters not listed on the agenda may do so under Public Comment. Public comments cannot result in discussion/action at this meeting.

SUMMARY: No public comments or emails received.

3. ACTION ITEM: APPROVE JANUARY 4, 2021: (3 minutes)

Chair Ledezma leads discussion with Managing Director Jenny Balisle.

Action: Approve January 4, 2021 Minutes

Public Comment: N/A

Documents: January 4, 2021 Minutes

DISCUSSION: None

MOTION MADE: At-Large-4: Lanita Mims makes motion to approve January 4, 2021 Minutes.

MOTION SECONDED: At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji.

AYES: Committee Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma, Vice-Chair: At-Large-3: Joan D'Onofrio, District 2: Beverly Kumar, and At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji.

NOES:

ABSENT: At-Large-1: Y'Anad Burrell.

ABSTAIN: District 4: Elizabeth Wood.

SUMMARY: Motion passes.

4. DISTRICT 3 AND 5 COMMISSIONER VACANCY UPDATE (5 minutes)

Discussion led by Managing Director Jenny Balisle and shares update on District 3 and 5 vacancy.

At-Large Seats & Alternate Seat process: Individuals are interviewed and nominated by the Arts & Culture Commission. After the Commission makes a recommendation, item goes to Family and Human Services Committee along with all applications that were received/reviewed by the Commission. This committee then nominates an applicant and item goes to the full Board of Supervisors for approval.

District Specific Seats: Are recommended by the applicable District Supervisor and then approved by the Board of Supervisors.

District 3: Bethel Island, Blackhawk, Byron, Diablo, Discovery Bay, Knightsen, Antioch, Brentwood, and Oakley.

District 5: Hercules, Martinez, Pittsburg and portions of Pinole and Antioch as well the unincorporated communities of Alhambra Valley, Bay Point, Briones, Rodeo, Pacheco, Crockett, Tormey, Port Costa, Mt. View, Vine Hall, Reliez Valley, and Clyde.

Public Comment: N/A

Documents: Constant Contact Vacancy 3 and 5

SUMMARY: On Jan. 11th, Managing Director Jenny Balisle sent Constant Contact emails advertising District 3 opening (Bethel Island, Blackhawk, Byron, Diablo, Discovery Bay, Knightsen, Antioch, Brentwood, and Oakley). Managing Director Jenny Balisle has been in contact with Lea Castleberry (Deputy Chief of Staff for District 3 Supervisor Diane Burgis). This is a District Specific Seat and is recommended by District 3 Supervisor Diane Burgis then approved by the Board of Supervisors. On Jan. 22nd, Managing Director Jenny Balisle sent Constant Contact emails advertising District 3 opening and District 5 opening (Hercules, Martinez, Pittsburg and portions of Pinole and Antioch as well the unincorporated communities of Alhambra Valley, Bay Point, Briones, Rodeo, Pacheco, Crockett, Tormey, Port Costa, Mt. View, Vine Hall, Reliez Valley, and Clyde). Managing Director Jenny Balisle has been in contact with Vincent G. Manuel (Deputy Chief of Staff for District 5 Federal D. Glover).

5. LACOG (CARES ACT GRANT) (10 minutes)

Discussion led by Managing Director Jenny Balisle. Discussion: payments, Town Hall, and Final Report.

Public Comment:

Documents: 1/14/21 LACOG Town Hall Agenda and Minutes

SUMMARY: Managing Director Jenny Balisle shared how the LACOG Town Hall was a success on January 14, 2021. Committee Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma and At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji provided invaluable feedback to grantees. Managing Director Jenny Balisle will implement LACOG town hall feedback as California Arts Council grant draft template to develop grant outcomes, documentation strategies, and measure successes. Art organizations shared that the pandemic created a disconnect between peers and communities. Grantee consensus stressed the importance of reconnecting and fostering relationships. There was an emphasis on how to generate more social media visibility about programs and services. Platforms are needed to create personal support networks that elevate the personal art experience within communities. 3 of the 4 LACOG Grantees have submitted online Final Reports along with required documentation. The Managing Director will be checking to see if LACOG Grantees have received payment.

The California SLP (State-Local Partners) group asked Managing Director Jenny Balisle to speak during public comment at the Tuesday, January 26, 2021 California Arts Council's meeting in support of the the LACOG Cares Act funding:

"Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County (Jenny Balisle):

The CAC SLP Cares Relief Fund was the first re-granting program for the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County. The application response was overwhelming and inspiring! Our Local Arts & Cultural

Organizations (LACOG) grantees were the Richmond Art Center, East Bay Center for the Performing Arts, RYSE Center, and The Quinan Street Project.

We recently facilitated a successful LACOG grantee virtual town hall. The discussion showcased artist organizations along with best practices and how to improve the granting process.

We plan to implement town hall feedback as a template to develop grant outcomes, documentation strategies, and measure successes. Grantee consensus stressed the importance of reconnecting and fostering relationships.

As Arts and Culture Commission Managing Director (a staff of one) representing over 1.1 million residents, I can't articulate how important this program was for Contra Costa County. It highlighted what is possible through art!"

6. CAC GRANTS (10 minutes)

Discussion led by Managing Director Jenny Balisle shares grant writing process, update, and SLP budgets.

Public Comment:

Documents: Arts & Cultural Organizations General Operating Relief, JUMP StArts, Impact Projects, SLP Snapshot Survey, and CAC What We Do Not Fund.

SUMMARY: Managing Director Jenny Balisle shares the current CAC grant draft updates for Arts & Cultural Organizations General Operating Relief (Feb.17 due date), JUMP StArts (Feb.11 due date), and Impact Projects (Feb. 2nd due date).

Impact Projects concept: "With California Arts Council support, the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County seeks an Impact Projects grant for an Utility Box Art Program. Artists partner with local organizations to create a design highlighting systemic/structural racism, education, poverty, cultural/social justice, or environmental sustainability in response to COVID-19."

*Managing Director Jenny Balisle has been in contact with Vincent G. Manuel (Deputy Chief of Staff for District 5 Federal D. Glover). Mr. Manuel expressed interest in partnering with the Arts and Culture Commission in future mural projects. The Impact Projects could be a wonderful example of a future Contra Costa County public art program.

JUMP StArts concept: "With support from the California Arts Council, the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County seeks a planning grant to develop an art project in partnership with the Office of Reentry & Justice and Juvenile Hall to serve justice-involved youth. Two community workshops will identify a strategy, actions, and timeline."

Arts & Cultural Organizations General Operating Relief concept: "With support from the California Arts Council, the Arts Commission of Contra Costa County will secure arts staff to support signature community programs that serve over 1.154 million residents. Since 1994, our mission is dedicated to preserving and celebrating our diverse cultural expression through communication, education, appreciation and collaboration."

The California SLP (State-Local Partners) group conducted a Snapshot Survey of commissions, councils, and other SLP's. 36 of 54 State-Local Partners participated with an average of 36 years in operation. The average budget size after removing San Francisco (\$23.7M) and San Diego (\$7.5M): \$519,449. Average Number of Employees (Current year): Full-time - 2.94, Part-time - 2.93, and Contractors - 6.92. Managing Director Jenny Balisle recommended that Commissioners look over the data and compare/contrast the status of the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County.

7. ACTION ITEM: YOUTH ADVISOR (15 minutes)

Commissioner Kumar leads discussion with Managing Director Jenny Balisle. In November, Commissioners voted that 2 Youth Advisors: one appointed (through commissioner recommendations then vote) and the other open-call process be incorporated into by-laws. This is similar to the At-Large and District Commissioner appointing process. Discuss including process, commitment, project, and mentor roles.

Public Comment:

Action: Approve Youth Advisor document.

Documents: Youth Advisor AC5

DISCUSSION: District 2: Beverly Kumar shared her impressive Youth Advisor document and next steps in the process of implementation. Managing Director worked with Senior Deputy County Administrator, County Administrative Office: Dennis Bozanich to expedite Carolyn Considine board approval either at the Feb. 2nd or 9th meeting. Ms. Considine completed the online Commission application, submitted, and Mr. Bozanich acknowledged receipt. At-Large-4: Lanita Mims asked about West County outreach and discussed the technology skill set. District 4: Elizabeth Wood indicated that mentoring a teenager would be a challenge with computer skills limitations. At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji was in agreement that the whole Commission must be involved in the process and mentoring is a two-way streak to have an exchange for knowledge.

MOTION MADE: District 4: District 4: Elizabeth Wood makes motion to approve draft youth advisor document.

MOTION SECONDED: At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji.

AYES: Vice-Chair: At-Large-3: Joan D'Onofrio, District 2: Beverly Kumar, District 4: Elizabeth Wood, At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji, Committee Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma, and Alternate: Pearl Parmelee Cabrera.

NOES:

ABSENT: Senior Commissioner: At-Large-1: Y'Anad Burrell and At-Large-4: Lanita Mims

ABSTAIN:

SUMMARY: Motion passes. At-Large-4: Lanita Mims disconnects from call at 6:14PM.

8. FRIENDS OF AC5 AND FUNDING (8 minutes)

Discussion led by Commissioner Mims with Chair Ledezma and Managing Director Jenny Balisle. Friends of AC5 provides status and POL awards funding update. Recommendation for Friends of AC5 to provide monthly update.

Public Comment:

Documents: None

SUMMARY: Friends of AC5 representative At-Large-4: Lanita Mims provided an update on funding. Managing Director Jenny Balisle inquired about Poetry Out Loud awards funding along with prizes. Feb. 11th is the Poetry Out Loud Virtual Screening and Award program. In addition, there'll be no Veterans in the Arts California Arts Council grant next year. The Arts Commission of Contra Costa County 2021-22 budget will be able to support personnel costs but art supplies and CCTV costs will need to be covered. District 4: Elizabeth Wood discussed the need for funds.

9. VIA GRANT UPDATE: (6 minutes)

Commissioner D'Onofrio leads discussion with Managing Director Jenny Balisle including first workshop analysis, program highlights, and funding.

Public Comment:

Documents: April Workshop Flyer

SUMMARY: Managing Director Jenny Balisle shared that the first set of ABOUTFACE workshops were a success despite being virtual for the first time during an unprecedented pandemic. In addition, Managing Director Jenny Balisle gained primary CAC portal access for the grants. The VIA-18-4224 Final Report was supposed to be submitted in June 2020. Because the workshop just ended, Managing Director now had access, and to avoid any issues with future CAC funding, Ms. Balisle completed and submitted the VIA-18-4224 Final Report.

ABOUTFACE Post Workshop Survey comments:

"Great! Enjoyed it very much. It was a real gift to attend during the pandemic, when we've been shut in and starved for community.

I feel inspired to work more in the arts.

Having participated in several virtual groups this has been the most rewarding for being only 12 hrs. I'm not a big fan of Zoom meetings but this one worked very well.

It was very constructive and Fun to learn all about drawing & painting.

Thank you very much -- this was fun and something I'd been meaning to try for literally 30 years. It was a great opportunity / kick in the pants to get started. I'll be doing more!

Wonderful program, hope to take it again.

Veronica rocks. Jeffrey's talent astounds. Jenny is doing a great job. Thank you for the opportunity to paint. Thank you for the supplies. The experience has been very meaningful for me. Again, thanks.

Keep up the Good Work."

10. POETRY OUT LOUD: (5 minutes)

Managing Director Jenny Balisle provides update including upcoming deadlines and events.

Public Comment:

Documents: POL Information and Timeline

SUMMARY: Managing Director Jenny Balisle shared that February 11th will be the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County virtual county-level screening and award ceremony. County award winner to be announced along with all places and special awards. An invitation will be sent and she encouraged that all Commissioners attend. District 4: Elizabeth Wood offers to provide direct support for the program.

Feb. 11th Virtual Screening and Award Schedule 6:30-8:30pm:

6:30-6:50pm Welcome, Acknowledgement, Background, and Introductions (Jenny Balisle)

6:50-7:40pm Screening (Brennan DeFrisco and Donté Clarkalternate video intros)

7:40-7:55pm Donté Clark and Brennan DeFrisco performances

7:55-8:15pm Award Announcement (Jenny Balisle)

8:15-8:30pm Closing (Jenny Balisle)

11. ACTION ITEM: ARTS RECOGNITION AWARDS: (8 minutes)

Commissioner Wood leads discussion highlighting new categories for discussion.

Public Comment:

Action: Confirm new categories.

Documents: 2021 New Recommended Categories

DISCUSSION: District 4: Elizabeth Wood shares her impressive planning, work, and dedication to ensure a successful upcoming program that lasts into the future. She wanted confirmation on the categories if they would work. District 4: Elizabeth Wood shared the extensive history. District 2: Beverly Kumar really enjoyed everything in detail and was ready to share thoughts. The discussion included the scale and sheer number of youth that could apply. The goal is not to overwhelm judges and to have equity in the programs. In addition, to explore separate Young Arts Awards in Music/Dance/Theatre. District 4: Elizabeth Wood said that the youth are nominated and have to complete answers in regards to their backgrounds/bios. Vice-Chair: At-Large-3: Joan D'Onofrio suggested adding a Digital Arts category.

5 Major Awards for Adults or Organizations/Companies:

1. Lifetime Achievement Award
2. Outstanding Contribution to the Arts
3. Arts Education Award
4. Philanthropy in the Arts Award
5. Arts Leadership Award

3 Young Arts Awards (Ages 13-21):

1. Young Arts Award in Music/Dance/Theatre
2. Young Arts Award in Visual Arts
3. Young Arts Award in Arts Leadership

MOTION MADE: District 4: Elizabeth Wood motions to accept new categories for adult awards and discuss the youth section at the next subcommittee.

MOTION SECONDED: District 2: Beverly Kumar.

AYES: Vice-Chair: At-Large-3: Joan D'Onofrio, District 2: Beverly Kumar, At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji, Alternate: Pearl Parmelee Cabrera, and Committee Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma.

NOES:

ABSENT: Senior Commissioner: At-Large-1: Y'Anad Burrell and At-Large-4: Lanita Mims.

ABSTAIN:

SUMMARY: Motion is approved.

12. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: (6 minutes)

Chair Ledezma leads discussion with Commissioner Burrell and Commissioner Kumar. Provide update on social media. Commissioner Mijayi shares podcast idea.

Public Comment:

Documents: None

SUMMARY: Managing Director makes a recommendation to always look at event dates for social media posts.

Committee Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma asks for all access to Facebook so we can all share information.

District 4: Elizabeth Wood agrees to the Facebook page. Committee Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma would like control. The Managing Director will ask to have Admin access for everyone.

13. CULTURE AND MISSION: (6 minutes)

Commissioner Kumar leads culture/equity discussion and strategies along with cultural worksheet concept.

Public Comment:

Documents: Arts and Culture Commission Mission Website Statement

SUMMARY: District 2: Beverly Kumar shared her wonderful presentation including how to define what is culture: languages, traditions, foods, attire, holidays, and historical context. We can and must think of Cultural perspectives: economic, environmental, legal, political, and social. District 2: Beverly Kumar stressed the importance of how to be culturally responsive, reflect on one's cultural lens, recognize bias (self and systems), and communicate in response instead of in reaction. Ask: Is equity a part of this conversation? How do we align our mission statement to our bigger goal? This will be used as a framework or template. The presentation will be archived in Google Drive.

14. CULTURAL PLAN COMMITTEE: (10 minutes)

Chair Ledezma leads discussion with Commissioner Burrell, Commissioner Miyaji, and Managing Director Jenny Balisle. Chair Ledezma and Managing Director Jenny Balisle read Commission goals. Senior Deputy County Administrator requests *Mission Goals, Principle, & Work Plan* update, written supplement, and presentation to the Family and Human Services Committee on March 22, 2021.

Public Comment:

Documents: CP Mission, Goals, Principles, & Work Plan

SUMMARY: Committee Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma, At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji, and Managing Director Jenny Balisle share a summary of the Cultural Plan Committee's meeting and work. At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji tried to clarify the amount of money. Vice-Chair: At-Large-3: Joan D'Onofrio inquired about the costs. At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji indicated that the Cultural Plan has to be flexible to move into other areas, get ideas and be unique to Contra Costa County. District 4: Elizabeth Wood recommended looking at San Mateo and Marin County for great Cultural Plans. District 4: Elizabeth Wood asked about inquiring about the Cultural Plan to reflect the diversity of each district. Committee Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma will be looking at 3-5 Cultural Plans including El Cerrito. At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji will get statistics.

15. ARTS CAFES UPDATE: (3 minutes)

Commissioner Burrell provides an update on Virtual Art Cafes.

Public Comment:

Documents: None

SUMMARY: Item tabled due to Senior Commissioner: At-Large-1: Y'Anad Burrell's absence.

16. ACTION ITEM: COMMISSIONER REPORTS: (15 minutes)

Chair Ledezma leads discussion with Managing Director Jenny Balisle. Managing Director asks for clarification on Commission Reports including purpose, process, and monthly written submission status. Commissioners provide (written or oral) reports on community events and outreach by sending monthly reports.

Public Comment:

Action: Approve purpose, process, and report form.

Documents: Submit to Managing Director to be included in January Minutes

SUMMARY: District 4: Elizabeth Wood said to turn in reports 10 days earlier. Committee Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma said that reports have to relate to anything regarding art. Managing Director Jenny Balisle suggests to table **ACTION ITEM 16** for Commissioners to discuss later.

District 2: Beverly Kumar:

- Attending the California Arts Council meeting on January 26 and hearing our very own Managing Director Balisle speak at public comment! She spoke with confidence, gratitude, grace and enthusiasm regarding the Local Arts and Cultural Organizations Grant. I really appreciated how they

began their meetings. They started off by respectfully acknowledging the whole of California as the culturally traditional land of Native American Tribes and recognize them collectively as stewards of the land. Each Commissioner took a turn introducing themselves, stating their location/district (some acknowledged what land they live on), who appointed them, how many years they are a commissioner- some pronoun preference. Committees they have to note: Equity Committee, Legislative Committee, Policy and Allocation Committee

- Enrolled/Attended a leadership series entitled “The Art of Everything. Leading WE in the age of ME” that meets once a month for 5 months. Supporting text by Dr. Gary Waddell.
- Attended Preparing for and Practicing Racial Justice and Healing with Dr. Ken Hardy- a convening for the Office of Racial Equity and Social Justice- hosted the Ryse Center. Words that made an imprint on me shared by Pastor Kamal Hassan: If you aren’t prepared to celebrate today because the country elected a tyrant - I see you. Don’t let anyone rush you out of your grieving but be careful with other people’s joy.
- San Ramon Social Justice Coalition. Excited to meet the founders of this grassroots volunteer group and offer support in the form of public comment to the City of San Ramon for their project, “Breathing Free Together,” which was approved. Meeting with Managing Director Balisle and the San Ramon Justice Coalition as a formal introduction.
- Prepared the Youth Advisor document in partnership with Managing Director Balisle.
- Created the “Culture-Mission” Guide for engagement
- It was REALLY nice to see a return of the Arts on our National Stage for Inauguration Day- from singing, to public art displays to POETRY!

District 4: Elizabeth Wood:

- FOR JANUARY 2021 - Report from Commissioner Elizabeth Wood: I continue to try to help Performing Arts Organization maneuver through the ramifications of AB5 and AB2257. AC5 is called the “Gig Law” aimed mainly at Lyft and Uber drivers. Unfortunately, it is affecting how every local, Community and Regional Performing Arts Organizations operates. The laws no longer allows Performing Arts Organizations to hire any workers/performers/musicians/Set Designers, Light Designers, Costume Designers/ Directors/Choreographers/backstage crews, etc. on a contract basis 20 years ago a lot of those people were volunteers, but the cost of driving to wherever they are doing the work and sometimes the parking fees made it difficult for some people to be involved. That’s when Performing Arts organizations started paying some compensation/reimbursement but also then asked the individual to sign a contract/letter of commitment. The new laws now mean the Performing Arts Organizations must hire each of those members as an employee and pay each one a minimum wage of \$15.00 and pay all the appropriate state and federal taxes, including sick leave and vacation time. If those laws had been in effect in 2019, Contra Costa Musical Theatre would have had to pay out an additional \$150-\$200,000 dollars for their last production.

Committee Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma:

- Committee Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma reports that she worked with ABOUTFACE, Kennedy High about POL, and LACOG Town Hall.

17. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS (2 minutes)

Chair Ledezma leads discussion.

Public Comment:

Documents: None

SUMMARY: District 4: Elizabeth Wood suggests to discuss youth categories.

18. ANNOUNCEMENTS (3 minutes)

Commissioners share District art announcements, opportunities, or events.

Public Comment:

Documents: The Valley Sunrise 4

SUMMARY: Committee Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma comments on Pinole Artisans. Alternate: Pearl Parmelee Cabrera suggests a collective (artistic) effort that promotes healing in response to COVID-19 vaccinations (specifically lines of individuals waiting for treatment).

19. ADJOURN:

SUMMARY: Chair District 1 Silvia Ledezma adjourned meeting at 7:32 pm.

NEXT MEETING: Monday March 1, 2021