

# Ad Hoc Arts Council Steering Committee for Contra Costa County



## Record of Action

Wednesday, Feb. 8, 2023

1:00 PM-3:00PM (PST)

County Administration Building  
1025 Escobar Street, Martinez CA, Room 110A

Or

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android:

<https://cccouny-us.zoom.us/j/89087979270>

Or Telephone:

1-888-278-0254 (US Toll Free)

Conference code: 219464

### Steering Committee Members Present:

**District 1:** Najari Smith *via Zoom until 2:00 p.m.*

**District 2:** Janet Berckefeldt--ABSENT

**District 3:** Germaine McCoy

**District 4:** Arlene Kikkawa-Nielsen *via Zoom*

**District 5:** Ben Miyaji

**Non-Profit Foundation:** Nilofar Gardezi

**Non-Profit Foundation:** Margot Melcon

### Staff and Consultants Present:

**Senior Deputy County Administrator, County Administrator's Office:** Lara DeLaney

**Richard Stein:** President & CEO, Arts Orange County *via Zoom*

**Roger Renn,** *Local Arts Specialist*

**Tracy Hudak,** Facilitator on the ArtsOC team *via Zoom*

**Patrick Brien,** Arts Orange County *via Zoom*

### Other Attendees:

Jenny Balisle *via Zoom*

## 1. Welcome/Call to Order/Roll Call/Self-Introductions

*Staff to the committee welcomed all and took roll call. Committee Member Najari Smith provided the Committee with detailed information about his background and upcoming events he is involved with organizing. Committee Member Arlene Kikkawa-Nielsen also provided the Committee with information about an event in collaboration with the Creekside Artists Guild and students at the Clayton Library.*

## 2. Receive and Approve the Record of Action for the January 18, 2023 meeting.

*Moved by Committee Member Miyaji and seconded by Committee Member McCoy. A roll call vote was conducted. Motion passed 6-0.*

## 3. Presentation of Project Status and Components by Project Consultant

*Project consultant, Rick Stein, introduced himself and his team members. He reported that Arts Orange County had just successfully hosted the Executive Director of the California Arts Council, Jonathan Moscone, who noted they were eager to have an arts council established for Contra Costa County.*

*Mr. Stein reviewed the progress on establishing the Community Visioning Sessions. Committee Member McCoy asked about attendance expectations. Mr. Stein encouraged the Committee Members to attend any or all the Visioning Sessions and spread the word about them. Roger Renn reported that rack cards had been developed and distribution was underway, both in English and Spanish versions. A Spanish interpreter would be attending all sessions. Information about the Visioning Sessions would be posted on the project's Facebook page, which would be boosted, and other social media sites. Digital images would be shared with the Committee to facilitate distribution, and press releases would be issued.*

*Mr. Stein also reported on progress with the asset and organization inventories and asked for edits/updates from Committee Members, which were provided. Committee Member Kikkawa-Nielsen asked about the types of organizations to be included; Mr. Stein encouraged inclusivity.*

*The Stakeholder Interview List was also discussed, and Committee Members provided input and asked about a deadline, which Mr. Stein responded was through the month of March. Committee Member Gardezi noted the list could be informed by Visioning Sessions, and space should be given for that.*

*Mr. Stein noted that the Steering Committee meeting date of March 8, if shifted to the following week, would accommodate his in-person attendance. Committee Members were queried for their availability on March 15, and if all were amenable, the meeting date would be rescheduled. Staff to the Committee would follow-up with Committee Members Smith and Berckefeldt for their availability.*

*The draft Online Survey was also discussed. It would be 10-15 minutes in length and include a random drawing for a \$100 gift card for respondents who wanted a chance to win. Survey Monkey would be utilized; Tracy Hudak walked the Committee through the draft. Committee Member Melcon asked about how the survey was going to be employed, how the data would be used to inform decisions. Mr. Stein indicated it would be useful in providing a roadmap for programmatic elements of a new arts council organization for Contra Costa. Committee Member Melcon also inquired about data comparisons with other regions. Committee Member Miyaji asked about length of the survey, how incomplete/partial responses could be used or recorded, and whether it could be accessed via smart phone. Mr. Stein reported that they would look at those aspects more closely.*

*The goal was to launch the survey in early March and keep it open until the end of April. Committee Member Gardezi inquired about the opening and closing statements, the long length of the survey, how questions were selected, and how specific to Contra Costa the questions were. She noted that she had an issue with the "ethnic" term and suggested simplifying language throughout the survey. Committee Member Kikkawa-Nielsen agreed the language should be more accessible. Committee Member McCoy indicated she liked the survey and had nothing more to add. Mr. Stein requested additional feedback after a subsequent version was provided to the Committee. Edits could be provided directly to Ms. Hudak, and she provided her email address. Public comment from Jenny Balisle included her support and interest in further edits.*

#### **4. Announcements**

*Committee Member Melcon noted that she and Committee Member Gardezi were participating in an effort to host a virtual arts community mixer/gathering on March 10 at 1:00 p.m. in collaboration with the San Francisco Foundation, Dean & Margaret Lesher Foundation, and Zellerbach Family Foundation; the flyer would be shared with the Committee and all were encouraged to attend. Committee Member McCoy shared information about "Goth Night Out" at the Historic Colonial Theatre, on April 8, 2023, in Sacramento. She also shared an event on Feb. 19 in San Jose at the St. Francis, a performance by Talon Smith, an award-winning pianist and composer. She also shared a Feb. 2, 2023 article about the delay in the opening of the Delta Theater and inquired as to whether an arts council could be helpful in this matter. Staff person to the Committee shared information about the Poetry Out Loud competition, sponsored by the Contra Costa County Office of Education, taking place on Feb. 11 at 10:00 a.m. at Las Lomas High School Theater in Walnut Creek.*

#### **5. Public Comment**

*Jenny Balisle announced an artists group in Richmond meeting on Feb. 8 at 5:30 p.m. to discuss an artists directory.*

#### **6. Adjourn**

*The meeting adjourned at 3:00 p.m.*