

**Ad Hoc Arts Council Steering Committee
for Contra Costa County**



Record of Action

Wednesday, April 12, 2023

1:00 PM-3:00 PM (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. ABSENT

District 2: Janet Berckefeldt

District 3: Germaine McCoy

District 4: Arlene Kikkawa-Nielsen

District 5: Ben Miyaji

Non-Profit Foundation: Nilofar Gardezi *via Zoom*

Non-Profit Foundation: Margot Melcon

Staff and Consultants Present:

Senior Deputy County Administrator, County Administrator's Office: L. DeLaney (absent)

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

Roger Renn, *Local Arts Specialist*

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

Enid Mendoza, *Sr. Deputy CAO*

Other Attendees:

Jenny Balisle *via Zoom*

Lawrence Kohl, *via Zoom*

1. Welcome/Call to Order/Roll Call *Roger Renn*

Roger Renn welcomed all and took roll call.

2. Receive and Approve the Record of Action for the March 15, 2023 meeting.

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

3. Project Status Reports *(Rick Stein)*

Project Consultant. Rick Stein, noted his team was busy at work compiling and assembling

notes and results of the various elements of the project.

Community Visioning Sessions: Mr. Stein thanked the Steering Committee members for their attendance at the five sessions. The team received valuable input from the more than 160 people attending the sessions. Tracy Hudak, facilitator of the sessions, noted that they were now reviewing the observations and take-aways. The next steps will be to sort and summarize what they heard regarding needs and conditions. They will use the information to prioritize needs and flag urgent things that can be implemented in the early days of the proposed new Arts Council's work. The need for communications, space/facilities and long-term arts funding were high on the list. Sharing of personal impacts of the arts helped to illuminate what's important to the community.

Rick Stein pointed out that the needs of the arts community go beyond what an Arts Council can fulfill. Their report will identify the highest and most important priorities for which the proposed Arts Council will have the capacity to provide focus. The new Arts Council will need to be able to quickly move to validate the initial investment and instill confidence in a short time in order to be able to address longer term needs and build capacity. The Council's role will be a service organization rather than a programming one. The Council will set criteria to address special gap needs. They must be aware that some needs are specific to various areas of the County, such as East County, and consider the degree to which the Council can address those specifics without distracting from more general County needs.

Committee Member Melcon queried for whom is this work trying to provide value...the Community? Board of Supervisors? Mr. Stein replied "yes" to both of those and also artists. All must feel their needs are being addressed and listened to. Some funders will have a "wait and see" attitude before investing in additional resources. Some will remember the fate of the previous Arts Council and want to be sure the new pathway of a public-private partnership can be successful and avoid previous pitfalls. A non-profit must work hand in hand with the County, but will also have the ability to be more agile to get things done. The arts consuming public will need to realize more access to services and communications and believe that they have been heard and progress is in motion. Mr. Stein noted the structure must be in place first, and then more funding can be secured to expand the role. Measurable goals will be included in the report to aid in evaluation.

Stakeholders Interviews: Mr. Stein noted that 68 interviews have been completed, exceeding the 50 proposed. They provide a representative group of the arts communities in all districts, and also include government representatives, educators, and business leaders. The goal of the interviews is to identify key points and opinions. These will be summarized and highlighted with direct quotes to illustrate and humanize the data. A few more interviews may be conducted with some people who have not yet responded to the request, but no more suggestions will be added.

Status of Online Survey: Mr. Stein reported that as of April 12, 946 people had responded to the survey, with 27 to the Spanish language survey. It is expected that the number will top 1,000. The consultants will begin to analyze the data in about 10 days, as by then there will be no meaningful change in the trends. Ms. Melcon asked if the geographic distribution of the respondents could be checked, with an eye towards under represented areas so that targeted outreach could be undertaken to get responses in the last days. Mr. Stein responded that a zip code analysis could be done and noted that more than half of the respondents had identified as non-white, and more than a quarter as disabled. Broad outreach has been done through Supervisors, libraries, and the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce. The team will analyze the demographic data within the week and provide it to the Steering Committee.

Status of Arts and Culture Organization Inventory: Mr. Stein noted that Committee Members Melcon and Gardezi had a researcher work with the consultants to do resource mapping. Over 300 organizations were added to the list, in addition to the 175 already identified. They will be broken down into categories of kinds of organizations.

Status of Public Art Inventory: Mr. Stein reported that this task is almost completed, with more than 449 pieces of Public Art identified throughout the County. The list will highlight areas where efforts have been more robust in investments in Percent for Arts requirements.

Committee Member Questions and Announcements: Committee Members Melcon and Gardezi lead a discussion of how much thought had gone into sharing the report and results with the community. Mr. Stein noted that because the report has been contracted by Contra Costa County, it will need to be shared through public mechanisms per the Brown Act. The draft report will go to the Steering Committee and Board of Supervisors. Once the link is posted on those agendas, it will become a public document and can be shared more generally. The link can be sent to the email list of participants and posted on Facebook, and the County can issue a media communication. There will be an Executive Summary of the highlights and recommendations.

Ms. Gardezi stressed the need for ensuring equity in the follow up of sharing the report and in completing the process of forming a new Arts Council, noting that the community was clamoring for communications. Mr. Stein noted that their contract and scope of work with the County was to prepare a report of their findings and a definition of the role of an Arts Council for Contra Costa County.

Mr. Renn suggested that a formal presentation of the report be made to the Board of Supervisors, to insure it did not be placed on a Consent Calendar. That way public support could be rounded up for the presentation by Steering Committee Members and others. Ms. Melcon felt there was perhaps a missing step in giving the public a chance to review the proposal and provide feedback, ensuring a two-way dialogue and on-going engagement. She asked whether there was an opportunity to lay out a time line and set some bench marks.

Mr. Stein replied that their consulting contract ends in June, as do the appointments of the Steering Committee Members. While the process got off to a late start, the draft report will be presented to the Steering Committee at its meeting on May 10. Once it is made public on the agenda, that link can be shared with the community, who can then share their reactions. It will go to the Board of Supervisors on June 27, after passing through the Internal Operations Committee on May 8. Public Comments can be submitted through the agenda packets and also in person. Agendas are required to be posted 4 days ahead of meetings. Mr. Stein noted that once the draft report made public on the meeting Agendas, it can be posted on Facebook with a link to the packets and information on how to review and comment.

Public Comment: Jenny Balisle inquired if there will be a continuing role for members of the Steering Committee, perhaps extending through the RFP and selection process for an organization to form a new Arts Council. Mr. Stein noted that is a possibility, but that it will be up to the Board of Supervisors to determine that process.

4. Announcements:

Mr. Stein noted that April is Arts, Culture & Creativity Month and that Californians for the Arts is holding an Arts Day Rally on the steps of the Capitol in Sacramento on April 18, with

an Arts Summit and visits to California legislators planned for April 17 and 18.

5. **Adjourn:**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 pm.