



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

SUPPORTING ALL THE ARTS

Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County 1025 Escobar Street, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Martinez, CA 94553  
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**Monday May 3, 2021 MEETING MINUTES**  
**5:30PM-7:30PM (US and Canada) ZOOM Invitation**

**Committee Chair: District 1:** Silvia Ledezma left the meeting at 6:10 PM.

**Vice-Chair: At-Large-3:** Joan D'Onofrio

**Senior Commissioner: At-Large-1:** Y'Anad Burrell

**Commissioners:**

**District 2:** Beverly Kumar

**District 3:** Grant Taylor

**District 4:** Elizabeth Wood

**District 5:** OPEN

**At-Large-2:** Ben Miyaji

**At-Large-4:** Lanita Mims joins the meeting at 6:35PM.

**\*Alternate:** OPEN

*\*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, District 3: Grant Taylor, District 4: Elizabeth Wood, Senior Commissioner: At-Large-1: Y'Anad Burrell, At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji, District 2: Beverly Kumar, and Vice-Chair: At-Large-3: Joan D'Onofrio, and At-Large-4: Lanita Mims.

**Youth Advisor Present:** Carolyn Considine

**Public Present:** Mitali Perkins

**Commissioners Absent:**

**Staff Present:**

Contra Costa County Arts & Culture Commission Managing Director: Jenny Balisle

**Monday May 3, 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 5:30 pm.

**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 APRIL 5, 2021 MINUTES: (3 minutes)**

Chair Ledezma leads discussion with Managing Director Jenny Balisle.

**Action:** Approve April 5, 2021 Minutes

**Public Comment:** None

**Documents:** April 5, 2021 Minutes

**MOTION MADE:** District 4: Elizabeth Wood makes motion to approve April 5, 2021 Minutes.

**MOTION SECONDED:** Vice-Chair: At-Large-3: Joan D'Onofrio seconds motion.

**AYES:** Committee Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma, At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji, District 4: Elizabeth Wood, District 3: Grant Taylor, and Vice-Chair: At-Large-3: Joan D’Onofrio

**NOES:**

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

**ABSTAIN:** District 2: Beverly Kumar

**SUMMARY:** Motion passes.

**DISCUSSION:** None

**4. ACTION ITEM: NOMINATION COMMITTEE: (7 minutes)**

Chair Ledezma leads discussion with Managing Director Jenny Balisle. By-Laws in regards to the Election of Officers: “A three-member nomination committee, appointed by the Chair, will develop a slate of officers to be presented and elected by the Commission at the June meeting.”

**Action:** Select nomination committee members.

**Public Comment:** None

**Documents:** By-Laws

**MOTION MADE:** District 4: Elizabeth Wood makes motion to make District 4: Elizabeth Wood, Vice-Chair: At-Large-3: Joan D’Onofrio, and Senior Commissioner: At-Large-1: Y’Anad Burrell as Nomination Committee to develop a slate of officers.

**MOTION SECONDED:** Committee Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma seconds the motion.

**AYES:** Committee Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma, Vice-Chair: At-Large-3: Joan D’Onofrio, District 2: Beverly Kumar, Senior Commissioner: At-Large-1: Y’Anad Burrell, District 4: Elizabeth Wood, District 3: Grant Taylor, and At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji.

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:** At-Large-4: Lanita Mims

**ABSTAIN:**

**SUMMARY:** Motion passes.

**DISCUSSION:**

Senior Commissioner: At-Large-1: Y’Anad Burrell recalls the process to have an open floor format. The Nomination Committee called every commissioner (yes, no, or interested in a role) as an effective way to gauge interest. Then the Chair can make a recommendation for the Nomination Committee.

District 4: Elizabeth Wood, At-Large-3: Joan D’Onofrio, and Senior Commissioner: At-Large-1: Y’Anad Burrell volunteer to develop a slate of officers.

Managing Director Jenny Balisle recommends that the Committee Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma appoint a three-member nomination committee to develop a slate of officers to be presented and elected at the June meeting. The three officers are Chair, Vice-Chair, and Senior Commissioner. A nomination committee will prepare a slate of officers. At the June meeting, the slate of officers will be presented along with an election.

At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji cautions about the Brown Act violations in Nomination Committee communications.

**CAO Nomination Schedule:**

1. May 3rd meeting: “A three-member nomination committee, appointed by the Chair, will develop a slate of officers to be presented and elected by the Commission at the June meeting.”
2. Commissioners send Nomination Committee interest in positions (Chair, Vice-Chair, or Senior Commissioner) by Saturday May 8th.
3. The Nomination Committee sends the Managing Director recommended slate by May 14th.
4. At the June 7th Arts Commission meeting, Commissioners discuss recommended slate, opportunity for open recommendations, come to a consensus, and approve new officers.

**From June 2020 Election of Officers:**

“Commissioner Wood thanked the election committee for preparing a slate of officers. No nomination came from the floor. The slate was accepted by the Commissioners by a vote.

• **MOTION MADE:** Commissioner Wood moved that Commissioner Ledezma be elected as Chairperson and Commissioner D’Onofrio be elected as Vice-chairperson for the term of one year starting July 2020 through June 2021.

**MOTION SECONDED:** Commissioner Shelton

**ABSTAINED:** 0

ABSENT: Commissioner Snook O'Riva, Commissioner Anderson and Commissioner Cabrera  
IN FAVOR: Commissioner Ledezma, Commissioner Wood, Commissioner Y'Anad Burrell, Commissioner D'Onofrio and Commissioner Kumar  
✓ MOTION PASSED"

#### **5. BY-LAWS AD-HOC SUBCOMMITTEE: (10 minutes)**

Discussion led by Managing Director Jenny Balisle.

**Public Comment:** None

**Documents:** 2021 Proposed By-Laws Changes

**SUMMARY:** Managing Director Jenny Balisle shares update on by-laws ad-hoc subcommittee. Work will continue until the draft is completed. Each month progress will be shared with the commission.

First draft changes include:

1. Statement of Purpose: "to create partnerships with ~~business~~ **businesses** and government;"
2. Duties of Commissioners:  
"a. ~~Support the functions of the Commission.~~ Support and engage in the functions of the Commission."  
"b. Give all meetings and other Commission activities a priority on ~~his/her~~ **their** calendar."  
"f. **Be an ambassador and proponent of the arts and the Commission in Contra Costa County.**  
~~and engage people from all cultural and ethnic groups in the arts and in the work of the Commission.~~  
"g. **Engage people from all cultural groups in the arts and promote racial equity.**"
3. Membership of the Commission: "Each Youth Advisor ~~will~~ **can** be a high school or college student."
4. Terms of Commissioners: "~~There are no term limits.~~ **Terms are limited to two. If Commissioner is appointed in middle of a term, they will be allowed to serve two additional full 4-years.**"
5. Resignation/or Removal of Commissioners: "Resignations from at-large seats shall be given in writing to the ~~Executive~~ **Managing** Director or the Chair."

#### **6. IMPLICIT BIAS TRAINING: (5 minutes)**

Discussion led by Managing Director Jenny Balisle on April 14th *Implicit Bias Training* including overview, participation, and program resources.

**Public Comment:** None

**Documents:** Implicit Bias Trainings Resource List

**SUMMARY:** On April 13th, Committee Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma, Senior Commissioner: At-Large-1: Y'Anad Burrell, District 2: Beverly Kumar, District 3: Grant Taylor, District 4: Elizabeth Wood, At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji, and Managing Director Jenny Balisle participated in Implicit Bias Training. This was the first ever training of its kind the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County participated in. Ron Martin facilitated the training with assistance from Ivy G. Hughes. The Managing Director expressed her gratitude in Contra Costa County providing this opportunity to the Arts Commission.

At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji indicated the need for more than one break during the training. In addition, lots of information and not enough time for feedback. It's a good start but the needs continue!

District 2: Beverly Kumar shares that thorough means of engaging with one another to have conversations that incorporate and expand mixed perspectives are important.

#### **7. ARTS & CULTURE PROSPECTUS SUBCOMMITTEE: (9 minutes)**

Chair Ledezma leads discussion with Managing Director Jenny Balisle with Commissioner Miyaji and Commissioner Burrell. Discuss May 18th Board of Supervisors presentation, *Arts and Culture Prospectus of Contra Costa County Request for Qualifications*, Measure X members, and Stakeholders Commissioner request.

**Public Comment:**

**Documents:** Measure X Members

**SUMMARY:** Managing Director Jenny Balisle provided the Board of Supervisors May 18th presentation and script drafts to the County Administrator's Office for review. Once approved, a video will be created to be submitted for the May 18th Board of Supervisors presentation. The Managing Director will be available before/after video for questions and comments. Managing Director Jenny Balisle attended the April 13th Measure X meeting in which positions were selected, members introduced, and guidelines discussed.

Managing Director Jenny Balisle worked with Senior Management Analyst Monica Carlisle on an *Arts and Culture Prospectus of Contra Costa County Request for Qualifications*. Proposed release date would be May 24th through BidSync. Senior Deputy County Administrator Dennis Bozanich shared an article in which West Hollywood City Council approved a Cultural Equity Statement for the Arts and Cultural Affairs Commission.

This is a resource for a Cultural Equity Statement for Contra Costa County. This ask has been included in the *Arts and Culture Prospectus of Contra Costa County Request for Qualifications*.

**Recommendation is for a Commissioner Action Plan:** Contact Supervisor and ask for cultural stakeholder recommendations; Commissioners recommend at least 5 cultural stakeholders a month for the next 3 months.

At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji shares that Youth Advisor Carolyn Considine can be part of the Arts & Culture Prospectus of Contra Costa County cultural stakeholders and it is important for youth to be involved in the process.

### **8. ARTS PASSAGES: (5 minutes)**

Discussion led by Chair Ledezma with Managing Director Jenny Balisle shared an update on May County Administration Building exhibition including Board of Supervisor exhibition paperwork approval, facilitation, and coordination.

**Public Comment:** None

**Documents:** None

**SUMMARY:** Senior Deputy County Administrator Dennis Bozanich requested that an exhibition be in place in time for the May 18th *Arts and Culture Prospectus of Contra Costa County with a District Art Project* Board of Supervisors presentation. The new County Administration Building exhibition glass cases are directly in front of the Board of Supervisors chambers. Senior Management Analyst Monica Carlisle worked with Managing Director Jenny Balisle on updated loan exhibition paperwork. At the April 27th Board of Supervisors meeting, the new paperwork was approved. The ABOUTFACE team picked up Workshop #1 and Workshop #2 veteran artworks to be displayed till August 19th. Veterans and their families have expressed how happy they are!

Committee Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma appreciates the quality of the ABOUTFACE exhibition video and audio.

**Committee Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma left the meeting at 6:10pm.**

### **9. ACTION ITEM: CALIFORNIA SYMPHONY ARTS & CULTURE COMMISSION SPONSORED CCTV PROGRAM AIRING REQUEST: (7 minutes)**

Discussion led by Managing Director Jenny Balisle highlighting process, evaluation criteria, and California Symphony Application to broadcast on CCTV (May 8, 15, and 22).

**Action:** Approve California Symphony request.

**Public Comment:**

**Documents:** Arts and Culture Commission Sponsored CCTV Program Airing Request and California Symphony Application

**MOTION MADE:** District 4: Elizabeth Wood moves to accept the proposal from the California Symphony to approve their airing request for CCTV.

**MOTION SECONDED:** District 3: Grant Taylor

**AYES:** Vice-Chair: At-Large-3: Joan D'Onofrio, Senior Commissioner: At-Large-1: Y'Anad Burrell, District 2: Beverly Kumar, District 3: Grant Taylor, District 4: Elizabeth Wood, and At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji.

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:** Committee Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma and At-Large-4: Lanita Mims.

**ABSTAIN:**

**SUMMARY:** Motion passes.

### **DISCUSSION:**

District 3: Grant Taylor has a long history with the California Symphony starting around 1985 and deep respect for the organization.

District 4: Elizabeth Wood shares the sentiment that for many the theatre and symphony are for rich people. There should be ways to involve those who do not have the privilege to visit the events.

Managing Director Jenny Balisle recommends approving California Symphony request to air their programs on CCTV. It's an honor for this esteemed institution to want to partner with the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County. In addition, CCTV recommended that their request to show non-commercial California Symphony content could come from the Board, or a department, or an advisory body that operates like the Arts and Culture Commission of Contra Costa County.

California Symphony was able to provide access to one of three programs: POETRY IN MOTION: Episode One. Lisa S. Dell (California Symphony) indicated that the production company had a delay in providing access. Managing Director Jenny Balisle recommends that based on Commissioner Taylor's professional experience, the Commission approve California Symphony request for all three programs.

### **Arts and Culture Commission Sponsored CCTV Program Evaluation Criteria**

Programs submitted for CCTV airing will be evaluated to determine if the proposed program:

1. Is of countywide interest
2. Has an arts or cultural connection
3. Is of high broadcast quality
4. Is within acceptable, respectful, and equitable community standards

### **What is an Arts and Culture Commission Sponsored CCTV Program?**

1. A program that has been reviewed and approved by the Arts and Culture Commission following the above criteria and CCTV Operating Policies and Procedures (<https://www.contracosta.ca.gov/154/Policies-and-Procedures>).
2. There's no financial stipend for an Arts and Culture Commission Sponsored CCTV Program applicant.
3. CCTV historically does

**Proposed program description:** "California Symphony's POETRY IN MOTION is a mini-series to be presented in 3-parts. Each 20- to 45-minute episode is anchored by one full-length piece of classical music for string orchestra that takes its inspiration from a poem. An introductory conversation with Music Director/Conductor Donato Cabrera precedes each piece performed by the California Symphony Orchestra. We hope to premiere each episode on as follows: Saturday, May 8, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. = anchored by the world premiere of 'Next Week's Trees' by Viet Cuong (California Symphony's Young American Composer in Residence from 2020 to 2023). 'Next Week's Trees' is inspired by Mary Oliver's 'Walking to Oak-Head Pond, And Thinking of the Ponds I Will Visit in the Next Days and Weeks;' Saturday, May 15, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. = anchored 'Verklärte Nacht (Transfigured Night)' by Arnold Schoenberg, the piece is inspired by Richard Dehmel's poem which explores a confession between two lovers; and Saturday, May 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. = anchored by 'Serenade for Tenor, Horn, and Strings' by Benjamin Britten and featuring Bay Area soloists Nicholas Phan (tenor) and Meredith Brown (horn). The serenade sets to music a selection of six poems about night by British writers."

### **10. YOUTH ADVISOR: (11 minutes)**

Commissioner Kumar leads discussion with Carolyn Considine and Managing Director Jenny Balisle. Discussion includes Carolyn Considine Justice Mural presentation, supporting documents, and press release.

**Public Comment:** None

**Documents:** YA Press Release, and Carolyn Considine Justice Mural

**SUMMARY:** District 2: Beverly Kumar and Managing Director Jenny Balisle worked together on a Youth Advisor Press Release to celebrate the new signature program launch. Youth Advisor Carolyn Considine shared her incredible new *Justice Mural* project including a video. Carolyn Considine's upcoming Youth Advisor *Justice Mural* is focused on raising awareness for social justice within Contra Costa County's high school communities. The multi-disciplinary project consists of a large collaborative canvas in which students express a creative dialogue through paint and digital elements. While many schools provided content that speaks to social justice, the *Justice Mural* is the perfect platform and opportunity for students to share a personal dialogue through art. 1am Generator, a collaborative arts nonprofit, has volunteered to work closely with youth to professionally translate sketches into a finished artwork.

District 2: Beverly Kumar shares how layers of the project are inspiring and give hope. In addition, show the importance of the youth and how they are here to lead the way!

District 4: Elizabeth Wood compliments District 2: Beverly Kumar's extraordinary work on the Youth document and process.

Senior Commissioner: At-Large-1 Y'Anad Burrell Congratulates Youth Advisor Carolyn and District 2: Beverly Kumar for their efforts. In addition, she requests that the video is shared with Lamar Anderson's family.

District 4: Elizabeth Wood Kumar suggests that the video be played at the Concord city council meeting and invite Youth Advisor Carolyn to attend as a tribute to Lamar.

### **11. ARTS CAFES UPDATE: (7 minutes)**

Commissioner Kumar provides an update on Virtual Art Cafes with new ideas and concepts.

**Public Comment:**

**Documents:** None

**SUMMARY:** District 2: Beverly Kumar shares latest exciting ideas and concepts: *Can we separate art from the artist?, Art Major, Creating Opportunities. Adaptation and Lessons learned from Covid-19, Arts Education is Essential, and Kids Art Class (with their grown ups).*

### **At-Large-4: Lanita Mims joins the meeting at 6:35PM**

At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji stresses the importance of Youth.

District 2: Beverly Kumar confirmed that Senior Commissioner: At-Large-1: Y'Anad Burrell is the Committee Chair.

At-Large-3: Joan D'Onofrio and Senior Commissioner: At-Large-1: Y'Anad Burrell discuss program labels, communication styles, and perception.

### **6:41pm Senior Commissioner: At-Large-1: Y'Anad Burrell and prospective applicant Mitali Perkins leave the meeting.**

### **12. ARTS RECOGNITION AWARDS: (6 minutes)**

Commissioner Wood shares update on categories, judges, and timeline.

**Public Comment:** None

**Documents:** 20-21 ARA Timeline

**SUMMARY:** District 4: Elizabeth Wood shares the latest update and tasks that need to be completed.

District 3: Grant Taylor prefers zoom meetings due to COVID-19 restrictions and safety concerns. However, he does prefer in-person if circumstances allow for it.

District 4: Elizabeth Wood inquires about reception possibilities. She will be sending the budget plan to Vice-Chair: At-Large-3: Joan D'Onofrio and At-Large-4: Lanita Mims.

Managing Director Jenny Balisle indicated that to wait on confirmation from the California Art Council and possible Measure X funding.

At-Large-4: Lanita Mims recommends to avoid scheduling conflicts with the Women's Commission. For example, events are put on hold as far as the *Women's Hall of Fame*.

### **13. VIA GRANT UPDATE: (2 minutes)**

Managing Director Jenny Balisle leads discussion with update workshops and future supplies costs.

**Public Comment:** None

**Documents:** May 21 ABOUTFACE Workshop Flyer

**SUMMARY:** Managing Director Jenny Balisle shares how the April ABOUTFACE workshops were a success and that May workshops have 12 participating veterans (and family members). Next year, the budget will support personnel but not supplies or CCTV (if virtual) costs. The California Arts Council discontinued this grant. ABOUTFACE veterans are excited and proud to be exhibiting their works at the New County Administration building.

Vice-Chair: At-Large-3: Joan D'Onofrio asks for supply budget numbers and graciously donates \$500 for next year's workshops.

As a Veteran, At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji recommends supply donations for future workshops.

District 2: Beverly Kumar supports donations to involve more people within the communities and coordinate through Managing Director Jenny Balisle.

District 4: Elizabeth Wood has a deep background and history in Veteran communities. She's sent out fliers notifying Veterans for events! She stressed the importance of accepting donations to increase the number of participants in the future.

#### **14. FRIENDS OF ARTS IN CALIFORNIA: (6 minutes)**

Discussion led by Commissioner Mims, Managing Director Jenny Balisle, and Commissioner Wood. Friends of AC5 is now Friends of Arts in California. Commissioner Wood shares collaboration idea with Meals on Wheels for a fundraiser.

**Public Comment:** None

**Documents:** None

**SUMMARY:** Managing Director Jenny Balisle shared that the County Administrator's Office requested Friends of AC5 by-laws. Chair Dr. PJ Shelton indicated that Friends of AC5 is going through a reorganization and by-laws being worked on. Friends of AC5 is now Friends of Arts in California. District 4: Elizabeth Wood discussed a collaboration idea of Meals on Wheels for a fundraiser with Friends of Arts in California.

District 4: Elizabeth Wood shared how the original Friends of AC5 name and goal was to support the Arts Commission of Contra Costa County exclusively. She is thinking of contacting the wife of the original AC5 partner and how to facilitate the process to start another Friends of AC5 organization. District 4: Elizabeth Wood shared the Meals on Wheels collaboration including an art kit.

At-Large-4: Lanita Mims Mims is currently on standby, waiting for more information regarding the process report of reorganization. The conversation is already happening to make the new NPO independent. There will still be a way to support the Arts Commission but the new main goal has shifted to support other art agencies.

Managing Director Jenny Balisle highlighted the Library Commission example (with numerous Friends groups) provided by the County Administrator's Office. The Arts Commission needs to be flexible and expand to other support organizations.

#### **15. ACTION ITEM: AT-LARGE-4 COMMISSIONER MIMS REAPPOINTMENT (7 minutes)**

Discussion led by Managing Director Jenny Balisle and shares update on District 5 vacancy. On April 14th, Chair Ledezma and Senior Commissioner Burrell interviewed Commissioner Mims for reappointment.

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

**Action:** Approve Commissioner Mims Reappointment.

**Public Comment:** None

**Documents:** Commissioner Mims At-Large 4 Application

**MOTION MADE:** District 4: Elizabeth Wood nominated At-Large-4: Lanita Mims for reappointment.

**MOTION SECONDED:** District 2: Beverly Kumar seconds motion.

**AYES:** Vice-Chair: At-Large-3: Joan D'Onofrio, District 2: Beverly Kumar, District 3: Grant Taylor, District 4: Elizabeth Wood, At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji, and At-Large-4: Lanita Mims

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:** Committee Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma and Senior Commissioner: At-Large-1: Y'Anad Burrell

**ABSTAIN:**

**SUMMARY:** Motion passes.

#### **DISCUSSION:**

On April 14th, Committee Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma and Senior Commissioner: At-Large-1: Y'Anad Burrell interviewed At-Large-4: Lanita Mims for reappointment. During the interview, At-Large-4: Lanita Mims shared her extensive background in the arts including the Entertainment industry and a Performing Arts Networking group. At-Large-4: Lanita Mims would like to see the Music Cafe (in which all venues get together) including student choirs on a regular basis. This event could be done via zoom. She enjoys being a part of Poetry Out Loud and would like to see more schools be involved. In addition, developing a Poetry Out Loud for adults. Her District 3 is more rural but does have some theaters and venues such as *The Afrique Restaurant*. At-Large-4: Lanita Mims' dream project would be a huge arts and music festival (at the fairgrounds) that could be a weekend Summer event. At-Large-4: Lanita Mims wants to continue her service as an arts commissioner because the arts truly saved her life!

At-Large-4: Lanita Mims shared how her heart lies with music. Since 1985, she has had an entertainment company from highschool that explored various music genres and pursued venues, backstage events, and



more. At-Large-4: Lanita Mims hopes to plan post-COVID events with her company including an event called "The Sweet Summer Soret."

District 4: Elizabeth Wood plans to communicate with At-Large-4: Lanita Mims to coordinate events.

District 2: Beverly Kumar and District 3: Grant Taylor Support At-Large-4: Lanita Mims!

**16. ACTION ITEM: MEETING DAY & TIME (9 minutes)**

Vice-Chair Joan D'Onofrio leads discussion with Managing Director Jenny Balisle and Commissioner Mims. Commissioners have indicated work conflicts and request discussion on possible new meeting day and time.

**Action:** Approve plan to explore options or select new meeting day/time.

**Public Comment:** None

**Documents:** None

**SUMMARY:** Item is summarized and tabled for next meeting.

At-Large-4: Lanita Mims and Committee Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma indicated future meeting conflicts with day and time. For example, At-Large-4: Lanita Mims will not be able to attend Monday night meetings until 6:15pm due to work commitments. Managing Director Jenny Balisle recommends that Commissioners explore options on best strategies on selecting a new meeting day/time.

**DISCUSSION:**

Vice-Chair: At-Large-3: Joan D'Onofrio preference is for zoom meetings (available anytime) and that in-person meetings at night would create a challenge due to driving.

District 2: Beverly Kumar indicates that the Board of Supervisors have suggested that zoom meetings are a priority or hybrid form of conducting meetings. She believes that access to meetings should not be a problem for Commissioners and the public.

At-Large-4: Lanita Mims will be late to every meeting due to work timing and traffic and prefers to move it back later in the evening. She'll still be able to be a full member and participate as much as she can.

At-Large-4: Lanita Mims suggests to also include time options in the summary. She prefers the second Monday of each month.

At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji prefers meeting at a later time on Mondays. He supports zoom meetings and does not like the idea of having people join meetings late.

District 4: Elizabeth Wood prefers to not have meetings on the first workday of the month due to other professional responsibilities. Meeting timing and dates have been inconsistent since she joined the commission. In addition, she's in support of a later meeting time.

District 3: Grant Taylor indicates that Monday works best with his schedule.

Managing Director Jenny Balisle supports District 2: Beverly Kumar that the Board of Supervisors zoom meeting preference is an effort to obtain more Federal funding ("green grants"). The Annual Retreat could be in-person if the pandemic allows.

Managing Director Jenny Balisle to send Commissioners email to receive feedback on meeting the 2nd or 3rd Mondays at 6:30pm on zoom.

**17. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE: (5 minutes)**

Vice-Chair Joan D'Onofrio leads discussion with Commissioner Burrell and Commissioner Kumar. Provide update on social media. Commissioner Mijayi shares podcast idea.

**Public Comment:** None

**Documents:** None

**SUMMARY:** District 2: Beverly Kumar indicates that the Managing Director is now doing all social media posting. Managing Director Jenny Balisle indicated that Communication Committee Commissioners will still have access to post if they would like.



### **18. ACTION ITEM: COMMISSIONER REPORTS: (11 minutes)**

Commissioner Miyaji leads discussion with Managing Director Jenny Balisle and Vice-Chair Joan D'Onofrio. Recommendation is to make reports written for time management and to follow Brown Act. Commissioners review and discuss Arts Commission Activity Report (ACAR) form to report activities such as community events, outreach, and advocacy. Forms will be due 7 days before scheduled commission meetings. Forms will be put into a report for inclusion in the commission agenda. Since this is a commissioner activity, a commissioner will be asked to collate activity reports.

**Public Comment:** None

**Action:** Approve written report process and form.

**Documents:** Arts Commission Activity Report

**MOTION MADE:** At-Large-4: Lanita Mims makes motions to accept and adopt At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji's Commissioner Report in written format with the addition of highlight time.

**MOTION SECONDED:** District 2: Beverly Kumar seconds the motion

**AYES:** Vice-Chair: At-Large-3: Joan D'Onofrio, District 2: Beverly Kumar, District 3: Grant Taylor, District 4: Elizabeth Wood, At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji, and At-Large-4: Lanita Mims

**NOES:**

**ABSENT:** Committee Chair: District 1: Silvia Ledezma and Senior Commissioner: At-Large-1: Y'Anad Burrell

**ABSTAIN:**

**SUMMARY:** Motion passes.

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### **District 2: Beverly Kumar report:**

District 2: Beverly Kumar video (23 minute mark): <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SZf1FBx-X-4>

- Thank you to Contra Costa County for giving me the opportunity to attend Implicit Bias Training. Special thanks to our Managing Director, Jenny Balisle, for helping advocate to make that happen.
- Spoke at San Ramon Valley Unified School District's Board of Education (Alamo, Danville, San Ramon and part of Walnut Creek) meeting addressing arts and culture. I wrote a poem on the implicit bias as racism within our district. (video and poem included for report)
- Created some promotional material for our Youth Advisor role.
- Jazzed to connect with Marilyn Cachola Lucey who works for Assemblymember Baurer-Kahan (AD16). She is recently doing advocacy work on the state level for the arts so I invited her to our June meeting.
- I Can Do That Theatre! Just opened in a brand new building in Danville! They not only put on productions but have classes for children 8 through 18. In addition they have a cafe in the lobby and seating in front and back. They offer space to rent for meetings. I'm looking forward to taking a tour.
- Thank you to the POL team and Friends of AC5 for the beautiful jacket to the first place winner and for delivering all the proclamations to the winners.
- Excited to be invited again to judge St. Catherine University's Oratory Scholarship Contest. Students write their own speeches and present them online for judging- one of the silver linings that Covid-19 taught us all on how to pivot toward and embrace-- being even *more* creative!

District 3: Grant Taylor had various questions and was wondering if the report became additional work that detracts from more important tasks.

At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji responds to District 3: Grant Taylor and says that the reports are up to the Commissioner. In addition, reports should be related to the community or in support of the commission should be reported.

Vice-Chair: At-Large-3: Joan D'Onofrio supports At-Large-2: Ben Miyaji stance and format for the Commissioner Reports.

District 2: Beverly Kumar is in support of the Commissioner Report format and acknowledges that some months, Commissioners will not have a report and agrees with a minute to highlight an important element.

### **19. NEXT MEETING AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS: (2 minutes)**

Chair Ledezma leads discussion.

**Public Comment:** None

**Documents:** None

**SUMMARY:** None.

**20. ANNOUNCEMENTS: (3 minutes)**

Commissioners share District art announcements, opportunities, or events.

**Public Comment:** None

**Documents:** None

**SUMMARY:** None

**District 4:** District 4: Elizabeth Wood shares that the Leshner Center for the Arts offers tours on Saturdays.

**21. ADJOURN:**

Vice-Chair: At-Large-3: Joan D'Onofrio calls time when the 7:45PM meeting is adjourned.

**NEXT MEETING: Monday June 7, 2021**