

Ad Hoc Arts Council Steering Committee for Contra Costa County



Record of Action

Wednesday, May 10, 2023

1:30 PM-3:00 PM (PST)

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

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

Steering Committee Members Present:

District 1: Najari Smith. ABSENT

District 2: Janet Berckefeldt

District 3: Germaine McCoy *via Zoom*

District 4: Arlene Kikkawa-Nielsen

District 5: Ben Miyaji *via Zoom*

Non-Profit Foundation: Nilofar Gardezi

Non-Profit Foundation: Margot Melcon

Staff and Consultants Present:

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

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

Roger Renn, *Local Arts Specialist*

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

Victor Payan, on the ArtsOC team *via Zoom*

Other Attendees:

Lawrence Kohl, *via Zoom*

1. Welcome/Call to Order/Roll Call

Lara DeLaney welcomed all and took roll call.

2. Receive and Approve the Record of Action for the April 12, 2023 meeting.

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

3. Project Report First Draft (Rick Stein)

Project Consultant. Rick Stein, noted his team was busy at work compiling and assembling the first draft of the report. He walked through the organization of the report, noting it was not an exact science, and stated they were open to suggestions on organizing the report and were eager to hear thoughts on the recommendations contained in it. In particular, he asked for input on the Vision, Values and Mission section, which was distilled from the visioning sessions and stakeholder interviews, indicating he was open to "word-smithing," to provide a clearer or more inspiring way to communicate.

Steering Committee Member Gardezi expressed appreciation for the work. She asked for the

concepts of racial equity and diversity to be more embedded in the Mission section. Member Melcon noted that the work was very aspirational, but she was concerned about setting an organization up for failure by the ambitious scope of work. She indicated that it feels daunting for an organization to take on all the work and would feel hesitant to take it on with an outside party telling someone what to do. Member Miyaji agreed with those comments and wanted there to be steps that could be taken along the way to build the infrastructure of an organization that could perform all the recommended services. Member Berckefeldt noted that these recommendations evolved out of community input, so an organization would want to be responsive to community needs. Member Kikkawa-Nielsen touched on who wasn't reached in the community engagement and noted there should be an allowance for flexibility as well.

Mr. Stein responded that no organization could ever fulfill everything at once, but the aspiration was important for elected officials and the public to express. He added that he didn't know how the County was going to find an existing organization that would have the capacity to fulfill the scope of the work; that it might require the establishment of a new organization, as the County wouldn't want an organization to take this on as a "secondary" part of their work.

Other comments from members included the desire for the mission of the organization to perform on-going learning through evaluation, impact analysis, and continuous engagement with the community. The recommendations may also be too "prescriptive," and it could be helpful to make it clear that these are recommendations and not necessarily prescriptive of an eventual entity. Ms. DeLaney provided information about how Request for Proposal processes were developed in the County, and how plans such as these could inform those processes.

Mr. Stein also went through the recommended services for an arts council. He noted there would be a final draft for the Committee to review in June. The final draft would also be presented to the County's Internal Operations Committee in June, prior to the presentation to the full Board of Supervisors.

Member McCoy expressed her appreciation for the work and indicated it looked good to her. Member Miyaji appreciated the information included in the Projected Budget, noting the salary information looked real and reflected the industry; he also appreciated the inclusion of a surplus which would be needed. Member Berckefeldt asked about the Program Manager role and whether there was sufficient webmaster expertise given the emphasis on website development. Mr. Stein responded that his organization did utilize an outside IT contractor to supplement internal capacity. There was also some discussion about the cost of office space, estimated at \$2000/month. Whether the County could offer some space was an unknown. Member McCoy inquired about the role of an arts council to form a coalition of organizations, to help foster collaboration between communities who didn't have commissions.

Public comment from Mr. Kohl included praise for an incredible job. He appreciated the overall structure of the report.

Announcements:

Member Kikkawa-Nielsen announced that the annual Japanese American summer festival was returning July 29-30, at 3165 Treat Boulevard, the Japanese American Religious and Cultural Center.

4. Adjourn:

The meeting was adjourned at 3:38 pm.