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californianartsadvocates.org



Advancing California through the arts, culture and creativity

March 15, 2021

To: Board of Supervisors – All counties in California

Re: American Rescue Plan funding allocation for arts and culture

Dear Board of Supervisors,

One year into the pandemic, artists, arts workers, and nonprofit cultural organizations and creative businesses are still in crisis. Performing and visual arts organizations and the live events industry are facing utter devastation.

As you consider how your County or City will allocate federal funds we urge you to take the following actions as outlined in the American Rescue Plan which clarifies eligible use of funds for assistance to small businesses, nonprofits, and hard-hit industries like tourism, travel, and hospitality of which arts and culture can be described as part of all and essential to the recovery of your community. Funding the arts is a high return investment of which your community will greatly benefit.

California Arts Advocates is the state organization that lobbies for funding and resources for the creative industries. We urge you to:

- **Direct federal stimulus funding to County and City level arts & culture agencies, departments, and programs to ensure these organizations can continue their vital services and enable the regranting of funds to arts and cultural organizations and artists throughout the community**
- Retain and increase budgets of local arts & culture agencies, departments, and programs;
- Lower barriers for small, midsize, and emerging arts organizations to access public funding (ie broaden eligibility for all nonprofit arts and cultural organization to include fiscally sponsored organizations, no matching component and eliminate reimbursement basis payments, lower insurance requirements);
- Invest directly in artists in support of your social and economic recovery plans.

The arts make our local economies stronger. Public investment in arts workers & arts organizations is key to the region's economic recovery

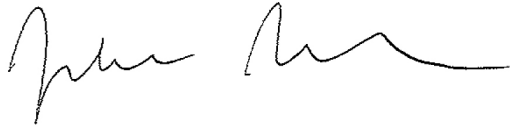
The arts make our communities healthier. Public investment in arts workers & arts organizations helps our communities heal. A recent study found that the arts result in a 66% improvement in individuals experiencing depression, 50% improvement in anxiety symptoms, and an 83% decrease of stress.

Arts make our communities more equitable. Public investment in arts workers & arts organizations is an urgent equity issue. Studies show that arts and culture make

students 5 times more likely to graduate from high school, lower neighborhood crime rates by up to 18%, and increase civic participation by 2 times.

As the vaccine become more available and the spread of COVID 19 weakens, we know the arts and culture industries will play a vital role in seeing all communities across California equitably rebuild and recover and our downtowns come back to life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Julie Baker', with a fluid, cursive style.

Julie Baker
Executive Director

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Victoria L. Hamilton', with a fluid, cursive style.

Victoria L. Hamilton
President, Board of Directors