



Memorandum

TO: COMMUNITY AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

FROM: Nanci Klein

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: October 13, 2020

Approved

Date

10/15/2020

**SUBJECT: ARTS COMMISSION FISCAL YEAR 2019-2020 ANNUAL REPORT AND
FISCAL YEAR 2020-2021 WORK PLAN**

RECOMMENDATION

Accept the Arts Commission annual report for Fiscal Year 2019-2020 and approve the Arts Commission work plan for Fiscal Year 2020-2021 in order to comply with the City Municipal code pertaining to Boards and Commissions.

OUTCOME

With the approval of these priorities for Fiscal Year (FY) 2020-2021, the Arts Commission will continue its work related to advising on matters pertaining to arts and culture to the City Council and the Office of Cultural Affairs (OCA), a division of the Office of Economic Development. As a result of this work plan, the Commission helps shape the City's policies related to the arts, arts grants, cultural facilities, outdoor special events, public art, and creative placemaking and advises on the implementation of *Cultural Connection: San José's Cultural Plan for 2011-2020* with the community.

BACKGROUND

Under section 2.08.850 of the San José Municipal Code, the Arts Commission's nonexclusive functions, powers, and duties are to:

- A. Encourage the full artistic life of the City's culturally diverse community and the beautification of the city.
- B. Advise the Council on all matters affecting the arts and the beauty of the city, including the development, organization, and operation of municipal arts programs and facilities.

- C. Establish an effective liaison between the City and arts organizations, assess the needs of arts organizations, and recommend to the City Council measures to promote the strength and cultural diversity of arts organizations.
- D. Advise the Council on appropriate policies and procedures for the distribution of City funding for the arts and make recommendations to the Council respecting grants and other funding to arts organizations.
- E. Advise the Council in coordination with appropriate boards and commissions on all matters related to public art, including the acquisition and placement of works of art as well as the maintenance, removal, relocation, or alteration of existing works of art in the City's possession, and perform all duties with respect to the Art in Public Places Program as provided in Title 22 of the San José Municipal Code.
- F. Examine every two years the condition of the city's works of art and report to the Council with recommendations for their care, maintenance, and improvement.
- G. Render advice and assistance in the fields of art, aesthetics and beautification to other City boards and commissions.
- H. Establish an effective liaison and cooperation between the City's arts programs and the programs of adjacent communities, the County, the region, the State and the nation.

The Arts Commission convenes regular monthly meetings ten times per year; no meetings are held in the months of July and December. The Commission has two standing committees, the Executive Committee and the Public Art Committee, both of which are regularly scheduled to meet six times per year on alternating months.

ANALYSIS

As a majority of the City's voluntary boards and commissions were unable to meet since mid-March 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting shelter-in-place-order, Fiscal Year 2019-2020 was still a productive year for the Arts Commission to continue its role of advising the Council on matters pertaining to the arts and culture as detailed on the attached FY 2019-2020 Annual Report. Notably, the Arts Commission continued to steward implementation of *Cultural Connection: San Jose's Cultural Plan for 2011-2020*, adopted by the Council on February 1, 2011.

The Arts Commission further addressed key issues that arose during this same time period. These included:

- Received reports on the Hammer Theatre Center reuse effort in partnership with San José State University;
- Reviewed, discussed, and made recommendations for annual allocations of funds between arts programs;

- Received reports on the impact of the FY 2020-2021 budget due to COVID-19, the budget process, and budget messages;
- Reviewed, discussed, and took action on the panel recommendations for Arts and Cultural Exchange Grant, Round 5; and
- Reviewed, discussed, and made recommendations on the Creative Industries Incentive Fund – Round 8.

Beginning of FY 2020-2021, all boards and commissions have reconvened using remote technology.

The Arts Commission and Office of Culture Affairs (OCA) staff were also not able to hold the 2020 Cornerstone of the Arts event due to the Santa Clara County Public Health Department's order which prohibits gatherings of all kinds countywide with limited exceptions for worship services, cultural ceremonies like weddings, funerals, protest activities, and car parades during the COVID-19 pandemic. The annual event honors art leaders and the contributions of the arts community. Upon deliberations at its meeting on August 17, 2020, the Arts Commission suggested postponing the Cornerstone of the Arts event to next year.

The Cultural Affairs staff has worked with the Arts Commission to develop the FY 2019-2020 annual report and FY 2020-2021 work plan. The FY 2019-2020 annual report and FY 2020-2021 work plan were approved by the full Arts Commission at its meeting on Monday, August 17, 2020.

/s/

Nanci Klein

Director, Office of Economic Development

For more information or questions, please contact Kerry Adams Hapner, Director, Office of Cultural Affairs, at (408) 793-4333.

Attachments:

Attachment A: Arts Commission Annual Report FY 2019-2020 Annual Report

Attachment B: Arts Commission FY 2020-2021 Workplan