



**Staff Liaison**  
Will Provost | (510) 215-4318  
[wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us)

This information can be interpreted for you free of charge. Visit City Hall at 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530 or learn more at [www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess](http://www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess)

Esta información se puede interpretar gratuitamente. Visite el Ayuntamiento en 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530 o obtenga más información en [www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess](http://www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess)

这些信息可免费为您解释。请访问位于 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530 的市政厅，或访问 [www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess](http://www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess) 了解更多信息

---

## AGENDA

### REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION

**Monday, February 24, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**

El Cerrito City Council Chambers  
10890 San Pablo Avenue  
El Cerrito, CA 94530

#### **(6:00 p.m) CONVENE REGULAR MEETING**

1. **ROLL CALL** – Chair Audrey Faine; Vice Chair Renée LeVesque  
Members: Courtney Helion, Kim Settles
2. **COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS, COUNCIL LIAISON AND STAFF LIAISON REPORTS**
3. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**  
*Remarks are typically limited to three minutes per person, and may be on anything within the subject matter jurisdiction of the body. Remarks on non-agenda items will be heard first. Remarks on agenda items will be heard at the time the item is discussed.*
4. **PRESENTATION FROM ARTS CONTRA COSTA COUNTY (ARTSCCC)**  
Hear a presentation from ARTSCCC and participate in discussion regarding the work being done by ARTSCCC at the countywide level. (Attachment)
5. **APPOINTMENT OF YOUTH MEMBER**  
Conduct an informal interview of Arts & Culture Commission Youth Applicant Juno Rabinovici, discuss the application received, and consider possible action. (Attachment)
6. **ACC CALENDAR OF EVENTS**  
Hear updates, participate in discussion, and consider possible action items regarding planning, logistics, and expenditures for the ACC calendar of events, including:
  - 4th of July – Chalk Art Event?
  - October Arts Month
  - Potential Night Market / Makers Fair Collaboration

**7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Consider approval of the minutes of the January 27, 2025, meeting. (Attachment)

**8. UPCOMING ITEMS**

- City Hall Gallery Space Artist Selection (March)
- Utility Box Public Art CFA (May)
- Workplan and Accomplishments (May/June)
- Community Center Mural CFA (August)
- October Arts Month Planning (August/September)
- Poet Laureate CFA (Fall 2025)
- El Cerrito Creative ReUse Artist Residency CFA (Winter 2025)

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Staff Liaison Will Provost at (510) 215-4318. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting. (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title I).

Any writings or documents provided to a majority of the members regarding any item on this agenda will be made available for public inspection at [www.el-cerrito.org/acc](http://www.el-cerrito.org/acc).

# ARTSCCC

**El Cerrito Arts & Culture**

**Feb. 24, 2025**

**ARTSCCC Presentation**

# CONTRA COSTA ARTS HISTORY & FUNDING

## 1994-2022

**December 13, 2024:**  
Board of Supervisors established the  
Arts & Culture Commission of Contra Costa County

**1994-2022:** \$50k or less annual funding

## 2022-2024

**March 29, 2022:**  
Arts & Culture  
Commission dissolved by  
the Board of  
Supervisors

**2022-2024:**  
\$0

## 2024-2029

**February 6, 2024:**  
Board of Supervisors designate  
ARTSCCC, a fiscally-sponsored  
project of Independent Arts &  
Media, to serve as the county's  
official local arts agency

**2024-2029:** 5-year Contra Costa  
contract. \$250k + COLA a year  
from Measure X funds, a half-cent,  
countywide sales tax

# ARTSCCC

**ARTSCCC (Arts Contra Costa County),  
a grassroots service & advocacy arts organization:**

- Manage signature programs and services
- Research and write grants
- Highlight artists, art organizations, and public artworks on social media
- Connect partners for collaborations
- Fiscal sponsor is the nonprofit Independent Arts & Media with over 20 years experience

**INDEPENDENT  
ARTS & MEDIA**

Image: *Poetry Series Program* Donté Clark, Poetry Series Program Jose Cordon, and Poet Monique McCoy at ARTSCCC's Happy Hour event (ARTSCCC photo).



# ARTSCCC



**Nava Mizrahi**  
Advisor



**BK Williams**  
Advisor



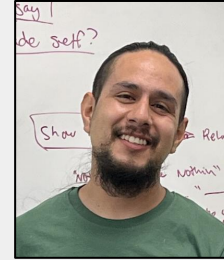
**Tony Tamayo**  
Marketing & Videographer



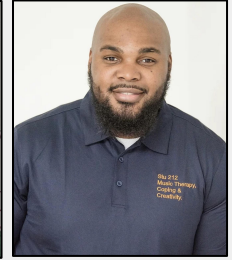
**Silvia Ledezma**  
Community Outreach  
& Photographer



**Donté Clark**  
Poetry Series Program  
Lead Artist and Workshop Facilitator



**Jose Cordon**  
Poetry Series Program  
Workshop Artist



**Jeremy Phillips**  
Poetry Out Loud Coach



**Ben Miyaji**  
Advisor



**Chris Holmes**  
Advisor



**Lisa Burger**  
IAM Executive Director



**Jenny Balisle**  
ARTSCCC Executive Director



**Esther Rojas Soto**  
ARTSCCC Program, Marketing &  
Community Outreach Manager



**Brennan DeFrisco**  
Poetry Out Loud  
Coordinator

Top image source left to right: Nava Mizrahi (personal photo), BK Williams (ARTSCCC photo), Tony Tamayo (personal photo), Silvia Ledezma (personal photo), Donté Clark (ARTSCCC photo), Jose Cordon (ARTSCCC photo), and Jeremy Phillips (personal photo).  
Bottom image source left to right: Ben Miyaji (personal photo), Chris Holmes (personal photo), Lisa Burger (independent Arts & Media photo), Jenny Balisle (ARTSCCC photo), Esther Rojas Soto (personal photo), and Brennan DeFrisco (personal photo).



# ARTSCCC

## Mission & Values

- Build strong creative communities
- Promote compassion and respect through the Arts

We've received grants from:



Image: Dorrie Langley (President) and Nathaniel Holben (Vice President) of the Martinez Arts Association at Main Street Arts Gallery. ARTSCCC photo.

# Contra Costa Arts Funding Data

- ***Creative Pulse: A Baseline Study of Contra Costa County's Arts and Culture Sector:***
  - 2024 arts analysis of Contra Costa
  - Dean & Margaret Lesher Foundation and The Zellerbach Family Foundation
  - Dr. Anh Thang Dao-Shah of Creative Equity Research Partners
  - Organizations with annual budgets **below \$25,000** make up **47%** of 185 organizations in Contra Costa County.

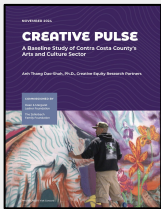


Image: *Creative Pulse: A Baseline Study of Contra Costa County's Arts and Culture Sector* report cover and data.

## Key Findings

- 1.** Arts and culture organizations in Walnut Creek, Richmond, and Concord make up 40% of the 315 organizations identified for this project.
- 2.** Organizations with annual budgets below \$25,000 make up 47% of the 185 organizations that provided organizational budgets.
- 3.** The geographic range and diversity of Contra Costa County has resulted in multiple micro arts ecosystems, each with their own unique characteristics, communities, and challenges.
- 4.** The movement of population and the geographic spread of the county resulted in a varying sense of connection with, and belonging to, the communities in Contra Costa County.
- 5.** The economic disparities and racial segregation that characterize Contra Costa County resulted in inter-communal racial dynamics that disproportionately impact Black, Indigenous, and People of Color (BIPOC) artists and communities of color.

# ARTSCCC

## Contra Costa County 5-Year Contract:

- County Arts Portal
- Art Databases
- Convenings
- Workshops
- Newsletter
- County Administration Building Exhibitions
- *Poetry Out Loud* program  
(California Arts Council requirement)
- Grantmaking
- Reporting
- And more!

Image: *Art Passages* exhibition at the County Administration Building featuring Contra Costa County art organizations and artists (ARTSCCC photo).





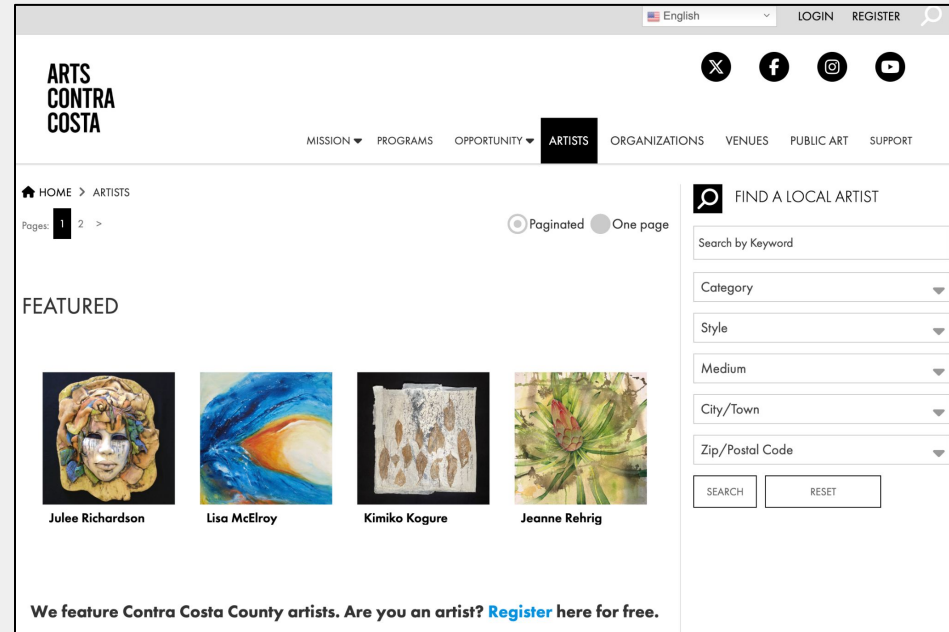
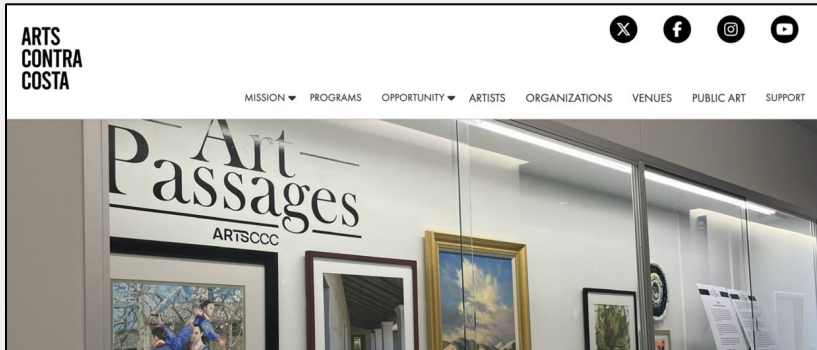
# ARTS CCC

**Signature Programs**  
**Part of our Contra Costa 5-Year Contract**

# ARTSCCC

## Comprehensive website:

- **Databases/Directories:**
  - Art Organization
  - Artist
  - Public Art
  - Venue
- Select artists and art organizations for opportunities
- Form connections among Contra Costa artists and organizations



Images: ARTSCC draft website homepage and artist directory. ARTSCCC images.

# ARTSCCC

## **Art Passages - Quarterly exhibitions at the County Administration Building in Martinez**

### **2024 Exhibits**

- **1st exhibit:**
  - District 1: Visual Artists of Richmond
  - District 2: Alamo Danville Artists' Society
  - District 3: Art Guild of the Delta
  - District 4: Concord Art Association
  - District 5: Martinez Arts Association
- **2nd exhibit:**
  - District 1: NIAD
  - District 2: Lamorinda Arts Council
  - District 3: Village Community Resource Center
  - District 4: Las Juntas ~ East Bay Artists Guild
  - District 5: Epperson Gallery
- **3rd exhibit:**
  - Los Medanos College & Center for Community Arts

### **2025 Exhibits:**

- Art of the African Diaspora
- aRt Cottage, Valley Art Gallery, Moraga Art Gallery/Lamorinda Arts Alliance, and Arts of Point Richmond
- Performing Arts organizations
- And More!



Image: Art Passages exhibition highlighting Los Medanos College and Center for Community Arts (ARTSCCC photo).

# ARTSCCC

## Poetry Out Loud®

- National High School poetry recitation contest. Contra Costa County competitions managed by ARTSCCC.
- Requirement of California Arts Council *State Local Partner* grant
- *Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)* with Contra Costa County Office of Education (CCCOE)
- **Feb. 8, 2025:** County Competition held at Las Lomas High School in Walnut Creek

Image: POL logos. The County Finals included impressive high school champions pictured here (from L to R): Harper Iles (Pinole Valley High School), Lillian Hodges-Johnson (Mt. Diablo High School), Aliyah Houston (San Ramon Valley High School), Olivia Buhler (Las Lomas High School), Mayari Mendo Pagtakhan (El Cerrito High School), Grace Pastor (Independence High School), Adri Walker (DVC College Now), & Bryan Nguyen (Deer Valley High School) with POL Coordinator, Brennan DeFrisco and judges, Jose Cordon and Jeremy Phillips. ARTSCCC photo.

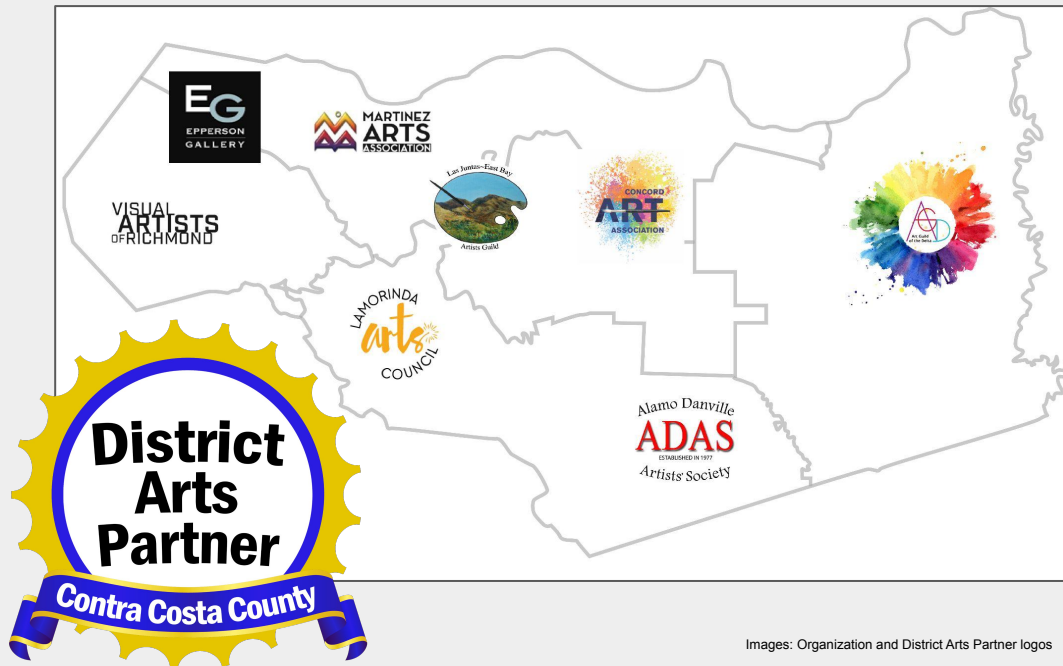


# ARTSCCC

## 2025 District Arts Partner Grant

Art organizations that provide vital services were granted \$2k each:

- **Visual Artists of Richmond:**
  - Artist organization with an artist directory and opportunities.
- **Alamo Danville Artists' Society:**
  - Since 1977, provides art services such as a gallery space and exhibitions.
- **Lamorinda Arts Council:**
  - Established in 1950, services include exhibitions, education, and art opportunities.
- **Art Guild of the Delta:**
  - Sole organization providing art services in East County.
- **Concord Art Association:**
  - Founded in 1963, the oldest art association in Contra Costa County.
- **Las Juntas~East Bay Artist Guild:**
  - Art organization with exhibition opportunities and services.
- **Martinez Art Association:**
  - Founded in 1968, they provide vital art opportunities and support a gallery space.
- **Epperson Gallery:**
  - Founded in 1996, the gallery showcases exhibits and artist studios.



Images: Organization and District Arts Partner logos

# ARTS CCC

Signature Programs  
Funded by Project-Based Grants

# ARTSCCC

## *Danza de los Diablos*

- The *Danza de los Diablos de Santiago Juxtlahuaca, Oaxaca* (Dance of the Devils of Santiago Juxtlahuaca, Oaxaca) project is a dance, performance, and band that celebrates indigenous Mexican traditions with performers that live throughout Contra Costa County
- They performed in the 2023 & 2024 4th of July parade in Martinez.
- Grants:



# ARTSCCC

## *Danza Azteca Teokalli*

- Traditional and indigenous *Danza Azteca Teokalli* (*Teokalli Aztec Dance*) group
- Bay Area-based professional Aztec dance troupe led by Alvaro Kepokamaztli Tellez and Jefa Irma Pineda
- Over 40 group members live and work throughout Alameda and Contra Costa Counties
- Grant:



# ARTSCCC

## *Cultural Corridor Project*

- Project connects communities inspired by a shared cultural experience of Contra Costa County
- Two public artworks created by Jesse Hernandez and Richard Muro Salazar
- Part of Contra Costa Crisis Center in Walnut Creek permanent collection
- Grant:



Image: *Cultural Corridor Project* art installation at the Contra Costa Crisis Center (ARTSCCC photo).



ARTSCCC

# Poetry Series Program

- *Poetry Series Program* at John A. Davis Juvenile Hall in Martinez to serve youth
- Artist team leads workshops to build educational and professional skills
- Partners:
  - Incarceration to College
  - Author's Inside
- Book creation to highlight youth writings
- Program fills gap programming for Contra Costa County and serves youth from all Districts
- Grant:



Image: Lead Artist and Workshop Facilitator Donté Clark, Workshop Artist Jose Cordon, and ARTSCCC Marketing & Videographer Tony Tamayo (ARTSCCC photo). Logo designed by Tony Tamayo.

ARTSCCC

# Poetry Series Program

- Expands program to include mentorship and young women
- Led by Richmond-raised artist and poet CieraJevae. She is the founder and Executive Director of Serving Melanin Collective.
- Grant: California Arts Council
  - *Creative Youth Development*



Image: CieraJevae (Artist photo)



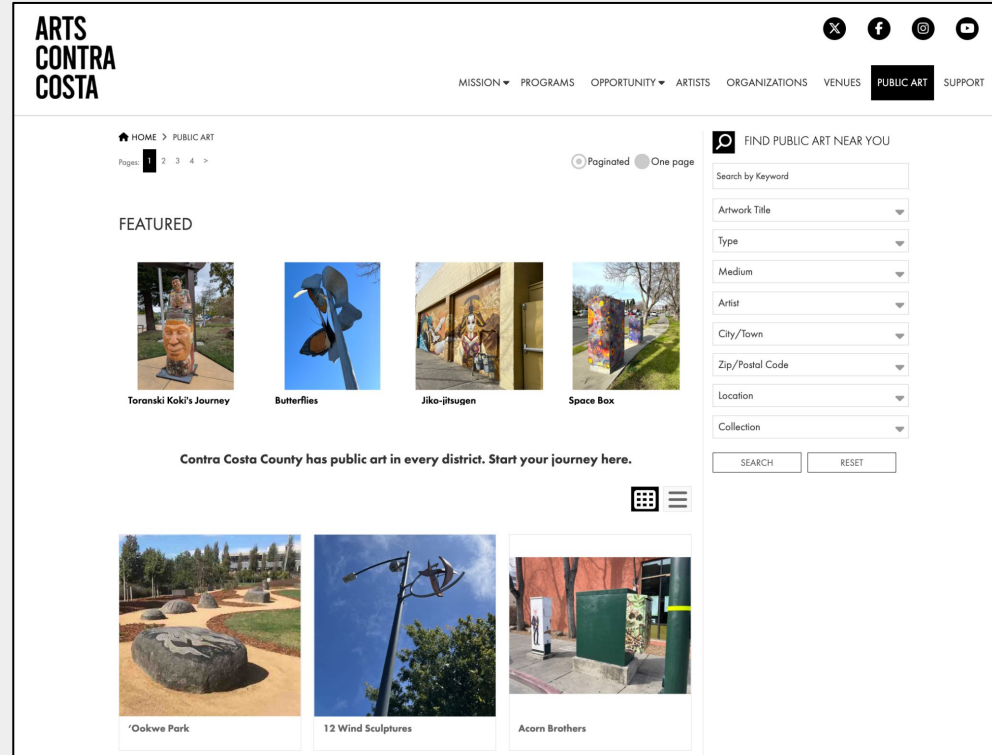
**ARTS CCC**

**2025**

# ARTSCCC

## 2025 ARTSCCC Top Priorities:

- **Maintain stable funding to complete County contract tasks**
- **New Website**
  - Launch & maintenance
- **Database expansion and management:**
  - Assist Artists, Art Organizations and Venues with creating and maintaining profiles
  - Public artwork research, data management and profile creation
- **Strategic Planning**



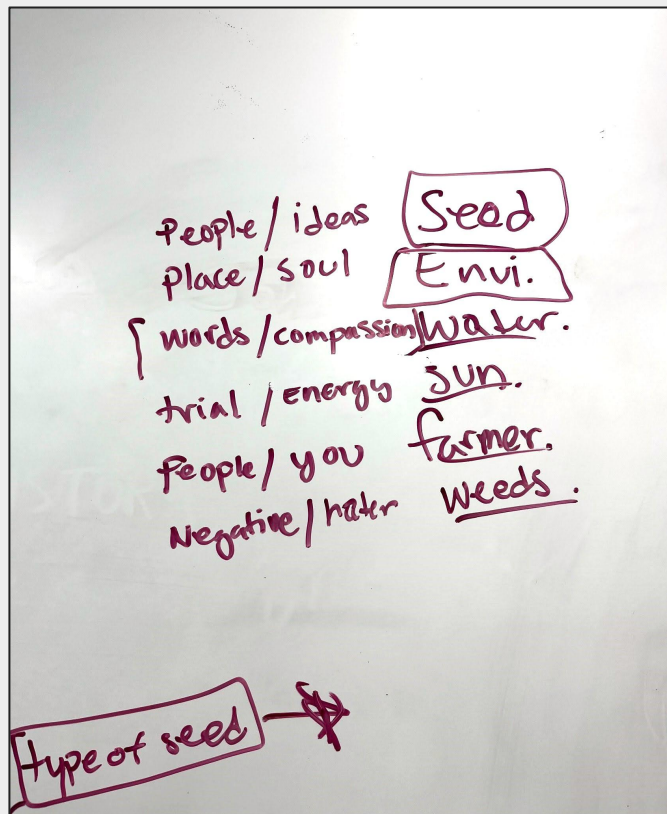
# ARTSCCC

## 2025 Strategic Planning: *Youth Arts Connection*

- ARTSCCC to serve as portal to refer youth to art programs.
- Integrating art into diversion programs by partnering with critical service organizations for at-risk and system-impacted youth as well as law-enforcement & judicial agencies.
- *Project Reset* model in New York City:
  - Diverts people out of the justice system with a proportionate, restorative, and effective response to low-level arrests using arts-based programming.
  - A collaboration between DA Offices, the Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice, the NYPD, public defense agencies, and community-based program providers.
  - [projectreset.nyc](https://projectreset.nyc)

Images: *Project Reset* logo & *Poetry Series Program* class writings, ARTSCCC image.

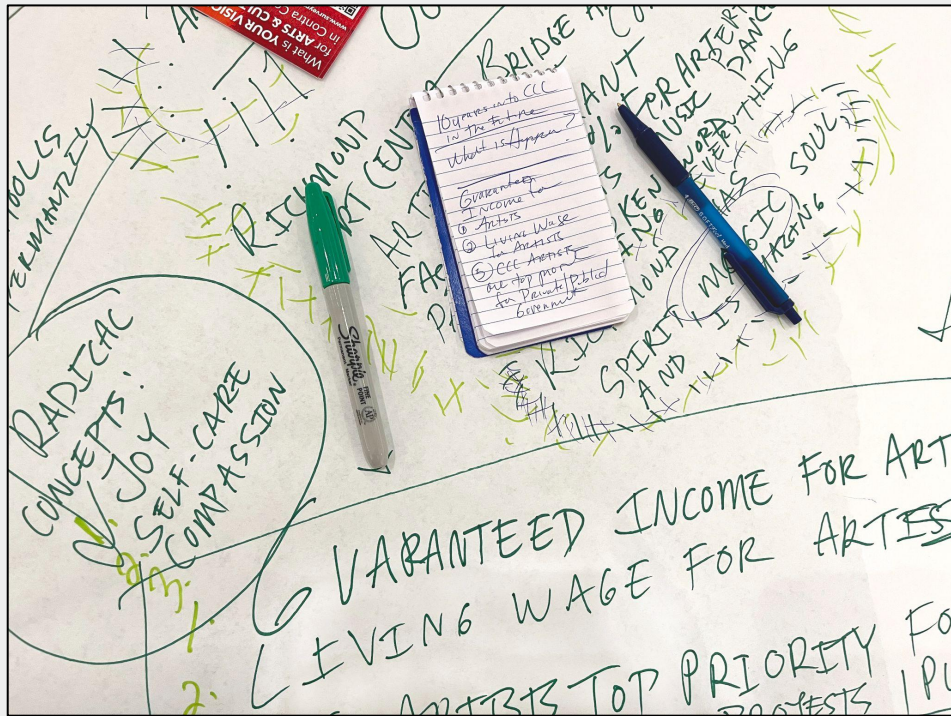
PROJECT  
RESET



# ARTSCCC

## 2025 Arts Funding Landscape:

- **Contra Costa Contract:**
  - 5% to .7% COLA = \$144k deduction
- **California Arts Council:**
  - Funding and grant program cuts
- **Federal Funding Freeze**
  - New guidelines and requirements
- **National Endowments for the Arts (NEA):**
  - Grants cut for underserved communities
  - Focus on 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence
  - Applicants must have 5-years of art programming



## Stay Connected!

Instagram: @\_artsgcc

Threads: @\_artsgcc

Facebook: Arts Contra Costa County - artsgcc

Twitter: @\_artsgcc

## Monthly Newsletter:



[WWW.ARTSCCC.COM](http://WWW.ARTSCCC.COM)

Image: ARTSCCC Newsletter QR Code and December 2024 ARTSCCC Newsletter

# ARTSCCC

## Make the most out of February with ARTSCCC!

A note from ARTSCCC Executive Founding Director, Jenny Balisle, join us for the Contra Costa County **Poetry Out Loud** competition, enjoy **Art of the African Diaspora** at the **Art Passages** reception, meet the **Visual Artists of Richmond**, sign-up for upcoming **workshops** and find **more opportunities** for artists and organizations!



Image: Artwork by Irene Bee Kain from her Heritage series: Irish Dance, German Raye, Native Dress, & Rock Star. Currently on display at the Art Passages exhibit featuring Art of the African Diaspora at the County Administration Building in Martinez. ARTSCCC Photo.

**From:** [noreply@civicplus.com](mailto:noreply@civicplus.com)  
**To:** [City Clerk](#)  
**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: Application for Boards, Commissions, and Committees  
**Date:** Wednesday, January 8, 2025 8:17:03 PM

This sender is trusted.

## Application for Boards, Commissions, and Committees

### PERSONAL INFORMATION

Please provide your name, residency and contact information.

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| First Name:                   | Juno   |
| Last Name:                    | Rabinovici   |
| Address:                      | [REDACTED]   |
| City:                         | El Cerrito   |
| State                         | CA   |
| Zip                           | 94530  |
| Phone Number                  | [REDACTED]   |
| Email Address                 | [REDACTED]   |
| Length of Residence           |  |
| Years at above address:       | 8  |
| Years in El Cerrito:          | 8  |
| Years in Contra Costa County: | 8  |
| Owner/Tenant:                 | Own home   |
| Youth Applicant (age 14-18)   | Yes  |
| Date of Birth                 | [REDACTED]   |
| Select One:                   | I am enrolled as a student at El Cerrito High School |
| Name of Parent/Guardian       | Sharyl Rabinovici                                    |
| Parent/Guardian Phone         | [REDACTED]   |

No:

---

Parent/Guardian Email Address:

[REDACTED]

---

Are you currently serving on an advisory body?

No

---

CITY BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, AND COMMITTEES

[City Advisory Bodies Website](#)

---

Advisory Body (first choice)

Human Relations Commission

---

Advisory Body (second choice)

Arts & Culture Commission

---

Reason(s) for applying:

I am interested in added a new perspective to the commission through my own background as a gay/trans and disabled second generation immigrant.

---

Describe any relevant experience, activities or abilities that would help qualify you as an applicant for appointment:

I have experience in public speaking and leadership through competitive debate, and being an officer of a school club. I am proficient in social media marketing and youth outreach, and I am familiar with business bookkeeping, sales/inventory, etc. I have served in a mentor capacity towards peers, and am great at cooperation with others.

---

#### REFERENCES

Please list two personal or professional references, including name, address, and contact information.

Buddy Akacich:

[REDACTED]

San Pablo Ave, El Cerrito, CA 94530

---

Reference 1:

---

Reference 2:

Sarah Bacus

[REDACTED]

Palm Desert, CA 92211

---

(Section Break)

---

#### YOUTH APPLICANT ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Please read and acknowledge the following statements regarding requirements

By checking this box, I acknowledge the requirements above

to participate.

I confirm that:

- 1) The information submitted in this application is true and correct to the best of my knowledge;
- 2) I am a student at El Cerrito High School, or a resident of El Cerrito between the ages of 14-18;
- 3) I understand written consent is required from my parent or guardian;
- 4) I am not employed by the City of El Cerrito in any capacity; and
- 5) I am aware of the meeting schedule for the advisory body I am applying for and feel I will be able to devote the time necessary to perform the duties.

Within 30 days of appointment (unless otherwise indicated below), I understand that I am required to:

- 1) Complete one hour of Sexual Harassment Prevention Training;
- 2) Complete Orientation/Handbook Training.

By submitting my application I acknowledge and understand that:

- 1) This application is a PUBLIC RECORD and will be disclosed in full upon request.
-

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)



**Staff Liaison**  
Will Provost | (510) 215-4318  
[wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us](mailto:wprovost@ci.el-cerrito.ca.us)

This information can be interpreted for you free of charge. Visit City Hall at 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530 or learn more at [www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess](http://www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess)

Esta información se puede interpretar gratuitamente. Visite el Ayuntamiento en 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530 o obtenga más información en [www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess](http://www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess)

这些信息可免费为您解释。请访问位于 10890 San Pablo Ave., El Cerrito, CA 94530 的市政厅，或访问 [www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess](http://www.el-cerrito.org/LanguageAccess) 了解更多信息

## **DRAFT MINUTES**

### **REGULAR MEETING OF THE ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION**

**Monday, January 27, 2025 at 6:00 p.m.**

El Cerrito City Council Chambers  
10890 San Pablo Avenue  
El Cerrito, CA 94530

**(6:00 p.m) CONVENE REGULAR MEETING** Chair Audrey Faine called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

- 1. ROLL CALL – Present:** Chair Audrey Faine; Vice Chair Renée LeVesque; Members: Courtney Helion, Kim Settles **Absent:** None.
- 2. COMMISSIONERS’ REPORTS, COUNCIL LIAISON AND STAFF LIAISON REPORTS**  
Staff Liaison Provost invited Commissioners and members of the public to attend the City Council Retreat being held on February 1, 2025, he highlighted the El Cerrito Poet Laureate’s upcoming event “Place and Placemaking in Poetry and Photography” taking place at the El Cerrito Community Center on February 8, and encouraged attendees to seek applicants for City Advisory Bodies.
- 3. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC**  
Resident Buddy Akacić announced the El Cerrito Human Relations Commission’s interest in coordinating a street dance event that celebrates diversity.
- 4. CITY HALL GALLERY SPACE CALL FOR ARTISTS**  
Commissioners reviewed and discussed a draft Call for Artists (CFA) to exhibit works in the El Cerrito City Hall Gallery Space and the appointment of an ad hoc subcommittee to review applications received.

**Moved/Seconded:** Member Helion/Member Settles **Action:** Motion to approve the 2025 City Hall Gallery Space Call for Artists as presented **Ayes:** Chair Faine; Vice Chair LeVesque; Members Helion, Settles. **Noes:** None. Motion approved.

Chair Faine and Member Settles were selected to serve on an Ad Hoc subcommittee to review applications received.

**5. COMMUNITY CENTER ENTRANCE SIGN**

Commissioners participated in a discussion and considered ideas for a project to update and enhance the Community Center entryway signage with a public art project led by the ACC. Commissioners showed interest in completing a call for artists process to add public art by completing a mural at the entryway to the Community Center.

Resident Buddy Akacić voiced his support for a project to improve the community center entryway.

**6. ACC CALENDAR OF EVENTS**

Commissioners heard updates and participated in discussion regarding planning, logistics, and expenditures for the ACC calendar of events, including:

- 4th of July
- October Arts Month
- Potential Night Market / Makers Fair Collaboration

Members discussed preliminary ideas for what a chalk art event could look like at the annual 4th of July celebration.

**7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Consider approval of the minutes of the December 2, 2024, meeting.

**Moved/Seconded:** Member Settles/Member LeVesque **Action:** Motion to approve the minutes of the December 2, 2024, meeting **Ayes:** Chair Faine; Vice Chair LeVesque; Members Helion, Settles. **Noes:** None. Motion approved.

**8. APPOINTMENT OF YOUTH MEMBER**

Commissioners discussed the youth member application received to serve on the ACC and formed an Ad Hoc Subcommittee consisting of Member Settles and Member LeVesque to interview the applicant prior to the next meeting.

Resident Buddy Akacić voiced his strong support for Youth Applicant Juno Rabinovici.

**9. UPCOMING ITEMS**

- Utility Box Public Art CFA (May)
- Workplan and Accomplishments (May/June)
- October Arts Month Planning (August/September)
- Poet Laureate CFA (Fall 2025)
- El Cerrito Creative ReUse Artist Residency CFA (Winter 2025)

**10. ADJOURNMENT** The meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

---

Audrey Faine, Chair

This is to certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the minutes of the Arts and Culture Commission meeting of January 27, 2025, as approved by the Arts and Culture Commission.

---

Will Provost, Staff Liaison