

SANTA PAULA SOCIETY OF THE ARTS BOARD MEETING

January Agenda

1/18/2023

	Clean-up		
	Thank You Notes		

Attachment 6

Letter to Board of Supervisors

December 2023

Ventura County Board of Supervisors

County Government Center

800 S. Victoria Avenue

Ventura CA 93009

RE: Board Action on the Use of Arts Community Funds on November 7, 2023

Dear Supervisors:

We write this letter with a twofold purpose. First and foremost, we would like to thank the Board of Supervisors for your creation of the first arts grant program in the county of Ventura. However we are also compelled to express our dismay and disappointment at the Board's process and direction to staff in this matter and our dissatisfaction with the inequitable and adverse consequences of this action.

On October 11, 2022, the Board approved its State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Plan, allocating \$1,000,000 to the Arts Community. The Board identified the Arts Community as a Priority with Countywide Arts and Culture as the Project. The Project is described as *"to provide services and resources in support of arts & culture organizations and projects. Particular emphasis is to be placed on communities most impacted by the pandemic and activities that align with the County Economic Vitality Strategic Plan's (EVSP) focus on the creative economy"*. EVSP Strategy A.6. reads: Create a countywide arts and culture Collaborative.

The arts community appreciated this action and awaited the customary notice of funds availability (NOFA) along with the application and award process. Here is the agenda item as posted:

Receive and File a Report, and Provide Direction Regarding, the Proposed Use of Arts Community Funds Designated by your Board on October 11, 2022 in the Amount of \$1,000,000; Authorization for the County Executive Office to

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Implement the Three Proposed Arts Community Programs Identified in the Report; Approval of, and Authorization for the County Executive Office to Negotiate, Execute and Make Minor Agreements to Support the Administration and Implementation of These Programs with the Ventura County Community Foundation and Other Service Providers in a Total Cumulative Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$100,000. LEVINE ACT ITEM (County Executive Office – 15 Minutes)
CEO RECOMMENDS APPROVAL AS PROPOSED

However on November 7th, the Board, led by Supervisors Gorell and LaVere and in a unanimous 5-0 vote, took the extraordinary action of directing “one-time funding grants of \$250,000 each to the Rubicon Theater Company and New West Symphony” (Board of Supervisors Summary Minutes, Agenda Item #61). We are dismayed, shocked, surprised and disappointed with the Board’s lack of process in this unanimous decision for the following reasons:

1. The Board completely disregarded the recommendation of the County CEO and staff for the proposed plan to distribute these funds and took a completely new course of action in the process, timeline and distribution.
2. There was no transparency about this action. There was no indication in the Board Letter that any funds would be allocated at this meeting, certainly not in direct contravention of the following identified Overall Program Outcomes:
 - a. Accelerate the recovery of the arts community in the County through *widespread government support*
 - b. *Support widespread sustainability* in the community with workshops and training
 - c. Deepen the County’s relationship *with the arts community*
3. There was no vetting of the two organizations (of which we are aware). The Board was not provided any verifiable data to show that the two organizations meet the Project Description of “Particular emphasis is to be placed on *communities* (emphasis added) most impacted by the pandemic...” but instead relied entirely on hearsay.
4. Supervisors Gorell and LaVere used the words “slight” and “pillars” repeatedly and wholly inaccurately in reference to their “slight amendment” to the staff recommendation and to Rubicon Theater Company and New West Symphony respectively. Giving away half of the available funds to just two organizations without vetting is not a “slight amendment” by any measure, it’s just simple favoritism. In addition, to suggest these two organizations are “pillars” holding up the county’s arts community is a terribly scornful insult to all other arts organizations. There are scores of other hardworking organizations locally with equal or greater community reach and impact. This is an important reason why matters of process should not be bypassed by “slight amendments”.
5. \$500,000 or 50% of the available \$1,000,000 went to only 2 of approximately 300 nonprofit organizations in the county.
6. The grant funds were awarded in a non-competitive manner to only two of six Tier 1 (large) nonprofits. The remaining four Tier 1 nonprofits will compete for

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funding along with approximately 290 Tier 2 and Tier 3 (small and medium) nonprofits, and will have less funds made available to those four remaining Tier 1 nonprofits than had they been included in the staff recommended category or Tier 1.

7. Less funds are available to the rest of the nonprofits.

8. All of the other valued and hard-working nonprofits in the county will ethically and morally compete for funding, while Rubicon Theater Company and New West Symphony were given grants without competition.

9. Tier 2 and Tier 3 (small and medium) nonprofits will need to compete against four Tier 1 (large) nonprofits for funding.

10. One or more Supervisors stated that these two organizations "earned" the grants by assisting with the County's efforts regarding the source of funds for this program. We ask: What comparable opportunities, if any, were provided to any other arts organizations? In addition, there were many organizations who assisted the County's early efforts regarding the source of funds for this program. To ignore their early participation is a huge omission.

11. What oversight will the County, through its grants administrator (Ventura County Community Foundation) utilize to ensure that Rubicon Theater Company and New West Symphony expend the grant funds in compliance with the program's identified purposes?

Notwithstanding the above, we are confident there is a remedy to erase the adverse and inequitable impacts created by the Board. We look forward to the opportunity of working with staff in this effort. It should be noted that county staff and Mr. David Yoshitomi in particular are to be commended for their work product presented to the Board.

The signatories to this letter request that the Board of Supervisors immediately address our underlying concerns with how the Board conducted business on November 7, 2023. Ventura County government enjoys a well-earned fiduciary reputation as good stewards of the public's resources. Each member of the Board of Supervisors betrayed the public's trust in this instance.

We look forward to an open dialogue on how we can move forward to make this process fair and equitable to all nonprofit arts organizations in Ventura County.

We are signing the below petition in support of the attached letter, written to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors. This was written to express the concerns of the many non-profit Ventura County Arts Organizations regarding the use of Arts Community Funds.

Ventura County Arts
Organization: _____

SANTA PAULA SOCIETY OF THE ARTS

Executive/Managing
Director: _____

MAISHA COLE PERRI OLSON, PRES.

SANTA PAULA SOCIETY OF THE ARTS BOARD MEETING

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Board of Directors signatures

PRINTED NAME	ZIP CODE	EMAIL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
MAISHA C. PERA	93060	MAISHACOLE@ME.COM	Maisha Cole
JUDITH KLEMENT	93060	JKLEMENTART@GMAIL.COM	Judith Klement
Angie Diaz	93060	augustineddiaz@gmail.com	Angie Diaz
Cynthia Mathieu	93060	ccindil66@gmail.com	Cynthia Mathieu
Charlene Miller	93060	charlene.miller@gmail.com	Charlene Miller
Linda Pennock	93060	santapaulalinda@gmail.com	Linda Pennock
Jennifer Wolfcale	93060	JennWolfcale@gmail.com	Jennifer Wolfcale

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Board of Directors

Richard Storrs
Chair

Richard Rutkin
Vice Chair

Peter Tompkins
Treasurer

Cindy Murray
Secretary

Iona Blackwell

James Engel

Ray Mastrovito

Alexis Peraino

Natalie Bergeson

Brad Tanenbaum

Allison Nelson

Ari Stidham

Executive Advisory Board

Shirley Jones

Hugh & Keets Cassar

Ronald E. de la Peña
Arroyo Oaks Medical Associates

Glenn Hogan
Ed & Lynn Hogan
Hogan Family Foundation

Harry Selvin
President, Selvin Properties

...

Cindy Murray
Executive Director

Casey Comstock Mills
Development Director
Starlight Program Director

E.K. Dagenfield
Production Manager

Lindsey May
Social Media Manager

Michael Donovan Casting

...

501(c)(3)
Tax ID: 77-011 5718



Dear Board of Supervisors/Introduction to Cabrillo Music Theatre dba 5-Star Theatricals

5-Star Theatricals is a non-profit (1986) musical theatre organization based in Thousand Oaks and we represent the Bank of America as one of three resident companies along side of New West Symphony and Pacific Festival Ballet.

We began as "Cabrillo Music Theatre" in the 50's as an Opera/Ballet/Musical Arts organization. Over the years we moved to performing musicals only, we changed venues and names, however our mission has remained the same.

We proudly bring Broadway-quality musical theatre to the community, furthering our belief that exposure to the arts is a gift every person should experience, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or social standing.

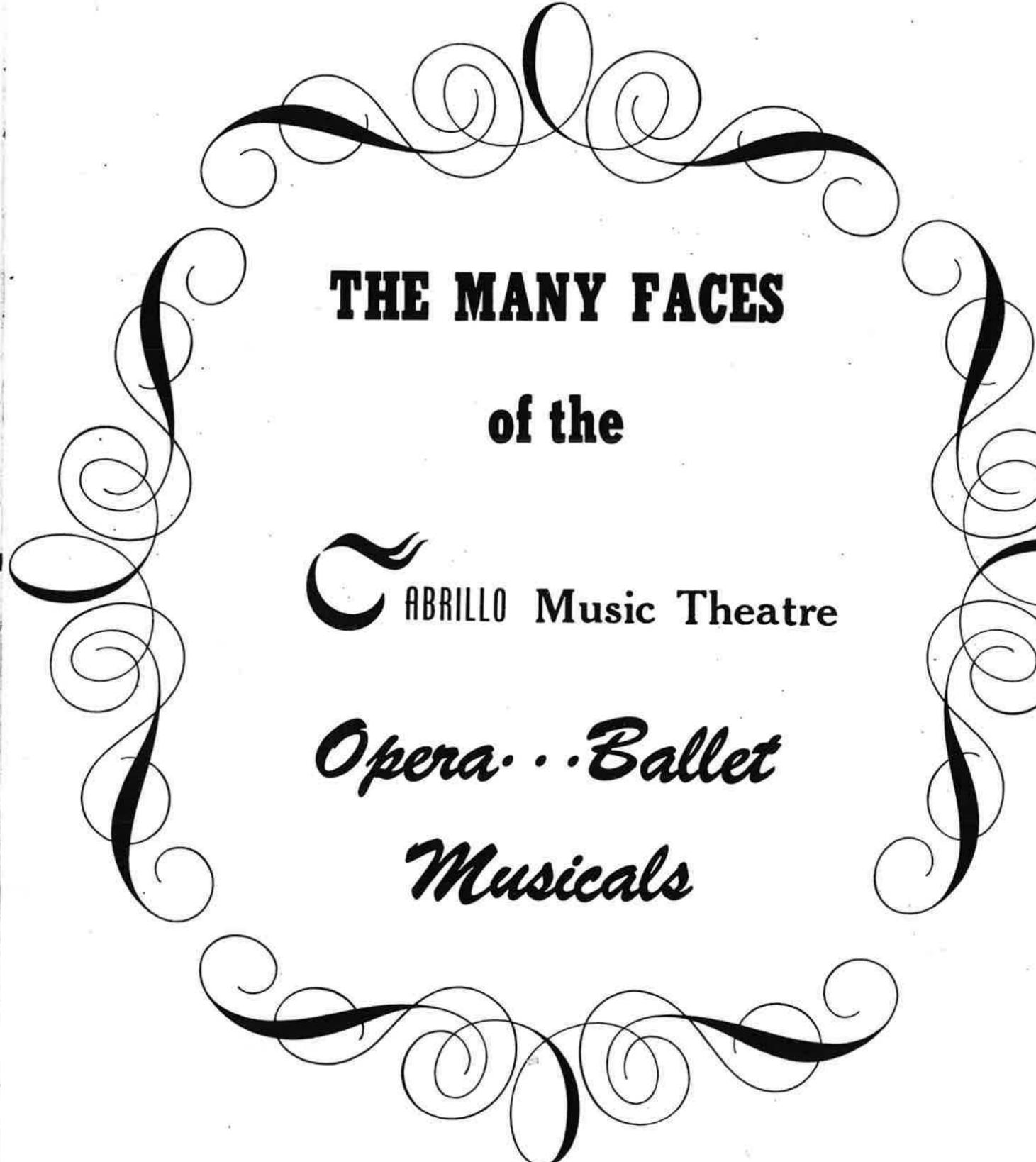
Throughout the year, we send a troupe of Starlight Teen and Children performers, as well as professional actors, to entertain at numerous local Senior centers and bring the joy of music to those unable to travel to the theatre.

Our summertime Adopt-a-Bus program ferries children to the theatre from local Boys and Girls Clubs, Casa Pacifica and many other at-need organizations. Each child then enjoys our production at no charge, opening their minds and hearts to the magic of theatre. To date we have brought in over 5,000 children.

In appreciation, we stage a spectacular "Holiday Show" every year at the Port Hueneme military base. These military families enjoy a full scale performance at no charge. In addition, we invite all active military to attend any show during the year, free of charge.

As one of the largest musical theatre organizations in Southern California we have been able to attract talent such as: Adam Lambert, Katherine McPhee Foster, Adam Pascal, Susan Egan, Davis Gaines and most recently, Teri Hatcher.

We are proud to serve Ventura County.

A decorative border of black swirls and flourishes surrounds the central text.

THE MANY FACES

of the

 A stylized logo consisting of a thick, curved line that forms a partial circle with a flame-like tip.

ABRILLO Music Theatre

Opera... Ballet
Musicals

GUEST ARTISTS

Selma Braden Lamb
Patricia Bart
♦

PRINCIPAL DANCER

Valerie Oren

FIRST SOLOIST

Monica Borchard
♦

SOLOISTS

Suzanne Cordell
Karl Hazard

APPRENTICE SOLOISTS

Susan Herrman
Cindy Howell
Carolyn Taylor

CORPS de BALLET

Cynthia Crawford
Norma Jean Funk
Linda Graves
Pamela Mazurowski

Martha Rodriguez
Susan Shoemaker
Ann Sawyer
Dana Tanaka

Paula Thorpe
Greg Daya
Michael Van Nortwick
Edgar Wood

Jr. CORPS de BALLET

Karen Boese
Celeste Divers
Elizabeth Grether
Hope Lampos
Lanette Maki

Mary McAttee
Maggi Mamolen
Diana Nisbet
Suzanne Nishimori
Diane Rodriguez

Sana Peterson
Isabel Rodriguez
Lisa Rooney
Norma Sasaki
Martha Shaw

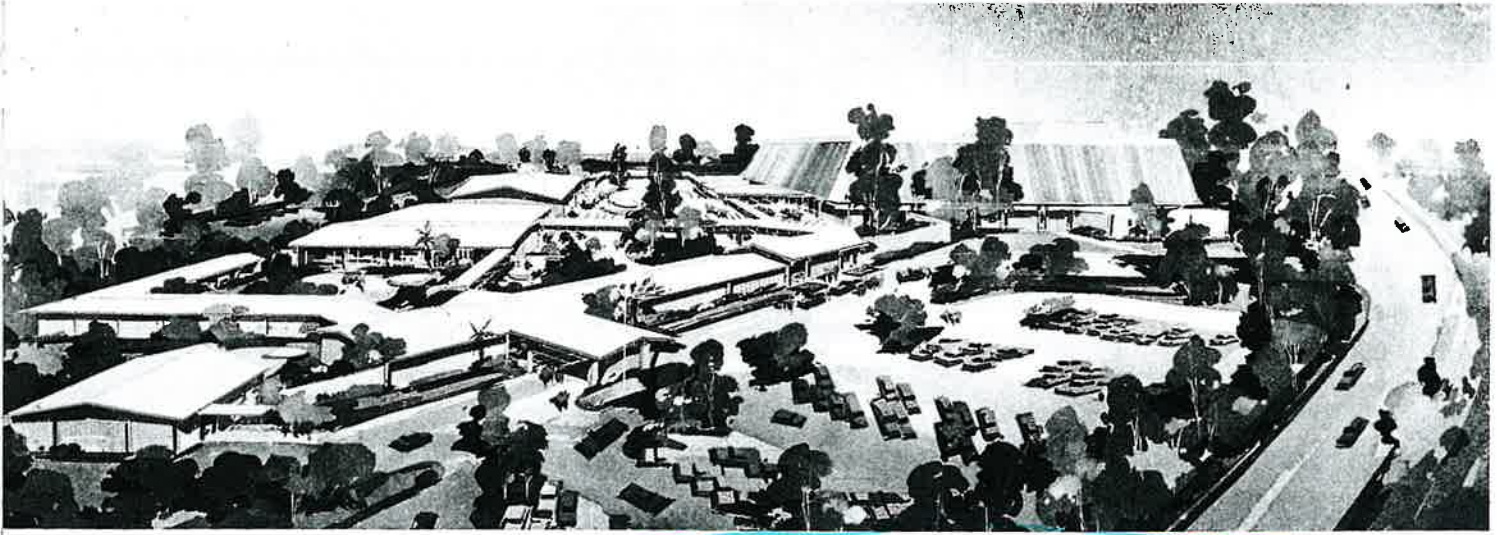


PRODUCTIONS

Evening of Ballet	1954
Hansel and Gretel	1955 - 57
Arts in Jazz	1955
Valse Classique	1957
Snow White	1958
Gypsy Tale	1958
Wuthering Heights	1959
Moiseyev Lyric Dances	1959
Death of a Rose	1960

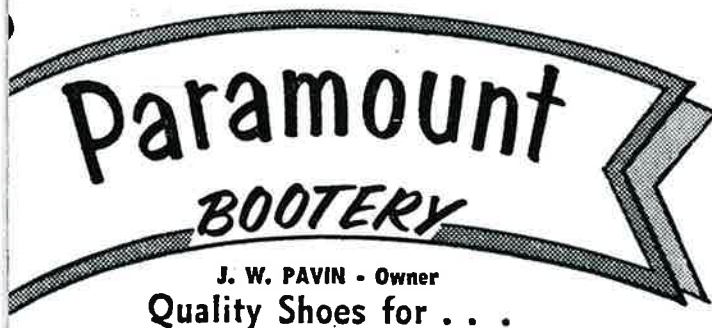
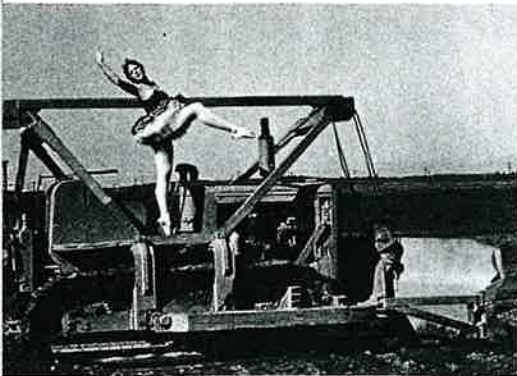
Cupid's Dilemma	1960
Sorcerer's Apprentice	1961
Concerto in F	1961
Chopiniana	1961
The Nutcracker	1961 - 62
	1966 - 68
Wizard of Oz	1963
Prince Igor	1963
Peter and the Wolf	1963
Swan Lake	1964

Abstracts	1964
Ballet School	1964
Pandora	1964
Unicorn in the Garden	1964
La Boutique Fantasque	1966
Promenade	1967
Crimson Curse	1967
Western Symphony	1967
Folkdance Concert	1968



With the completion of the new 1604 seat Oxnard Civic Auditorium, the Cabrillo Music Theatre is proud to have been chosen as the first county organization to present full stage productions in these beautiful new facilities.

Pictures below are of the ground breaking ceremony.



Serving Oxnard
for 35 Years

MEN

WOMEN

635 SOUTH A ST., OXNARD

**SERVICE
FIT
QUALITY**



MEN & WOMEN

**CHARGE ACCTS.
INVITED**

U.S. KEDS
Berkshire Hosiery
Capzio Dance Footwear
Slippers For Entire Family

- FLORSHEIM
- JUSTIN BOOTS
- WINTHROP

- Hush Puppies
for the Family

Women

- RED CROSS
- FLORSHEIM
- CLINIC

Children

- KALI-STEN-IKS
- LAZY BONES
- ORTHOPEDIC SHOES

"We Give S & H Green Stamps"

CALL

483-4015

Se Habla Español

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Ventura County Arts Organization: 5-STAR THEATRICALS

Executive/Managing Director: CINDY MURRAY

Board of Directors signatures

[illegible]

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SANTA PAULA THEATER CENTER

125 SO. 7TH ST. SANTA PAULA, CA 93060

805.525.4645 sptcbox@gmail.com

www.santapaulatheatercenter.org

Santa Paula Theater Center, established in 1985 by professional actors Dana Elcar and Bill Lucking, has been serving the tri-counties for 39 years. Located in the heart of downtown Santa Paula in the historic former Craftsman-style Ebell Clubhouse, SPTC is noted for its longevity and the high quality of its productions.

The Theater Center houses a Main Stage seating 90 with a annual season of 5 plays led by an Artistic Director (currently Jessi May Stevenson, formerly David Ralphe, Artistic Director Emeritus) and an Artist Driven Backstage seating 50 that specializes in new work, staged readings, experimental pieces, and an annual one-act series.



Santa Paula Theater Center also maintains an Acting Conservatory that serves a wide community of aspiring actors from youth through teens to adults and an annual Concert Series.

Throughout the years it has also hosted magic shows, comedy nights, choral presentations, art classes, and Spanish language productions. Its annual Ghostwalk "Theater in the Streets" running in October and emphasizing Santa Clara River Valley history has been featured in Sunset Magazine and annually reaches audiences throughout the tri-counties and beyond.

The Theater's Mission has always been to serve the community, promote diversity, reach a broad audience beyond its geographic location, and provide and produce quality theater and the arts.

We are signing the below petition in support of the attached letter, written to the Ventura County Board of Supervisors. This was written to express the concerns of the many non-profit Ventura County Arts Organizations regarding the use of Arts Community Funds.

Ventura County Arts Organization: Santa Paula Theater Center

Artistic Director: Jessi May Stevenson

DocuSigned by:

93022 jessimaystevenson@me.com

Board President: Cynthia Killion

854F829AAE2F40B...

93003 flyinghgroup@yahoo.com

Board of Directors signatures

PRINTED NAME	ZIP CODE	EMAIL ADDRESS	SIGNATURE
Ashley Osler	93023	shantileela9@gmail.com	DocuSigned by: Ashley Osler
Cathy Metelak	93060	cathyametelak@gmail.com	DocuSigned by: Cathy Metelak
Lisa Mirabelli	93060	lisa_mirabelli@yahoo.com	DocuSigned by: Lisa Mirabelli
Elixio Flores	93004	elixeo@gmail.com	DocuSigned by: Elixio Flores
Berniece Bird	93060	luabird1@gmail.com	DocuSigned by: Berniece Bird
Dave Cintron	93023	dave@cintronics.com	DocuSigned by: Dave Cintron
Leticia Mattson	93004	leticiapmattson@gmail.com	DocuSigned by: Leticia Mattson
Sindy McKay	93035	sindymck@gmail.com	DocuSigned by: Sindy McKay
Carlita Mead	93060	icerideronthefence@gmail.com	DocuSigned by: Carlita Mead
Gary Nasalroad	93060	nazrd@msn.com	DocuSigned by: Gary Nasalroad
Leslie Nichols	93060	sptcleslie@gmail.com	DocuSigned by: Leslie Nichols
Allan Noel	93535	allan.noel@gmail.com	DocuSigned by: Allan Noel
Mitch Stone	93060	quit.hollering@me.com	DocuSigned by: Mitch Stone
Shelby Sandefur	93003	shelbydsanderfur@gmail.com	DocuSigned by: Shelby Sandefur

December 2023

Ventura County Board of Supervisors
County Government Center
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura CA 93009

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Pacific Festival Ballet

Resident Ballet Company at the
Bank of America Performing Arts Center in Thousand Oaks

2282 Townsgate Road, Suites 4,5,6
Westlake Village, CA 91361

Phone 805.906.2086

www.pacfestballet.org

Kim Maselli, Artistic Director
Michael Maselli, Executive Director
Paige Loter, Development Director
Darby Ohlrich, Director of Operations

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Lori Sorensen
Chair

Paula Abdul
Honorary Board Member

Shirley Jones
Honorary Board Member

Kim Maselli
President & Artistic Director

Michael Maselli
Vice President & Treasurer

Paige Loter
Secretary

Deborah Collodel

Laura Klein-Weiner

Kaj Sorensen
Consultant

Stanley Holden
In Loving Memory

Pacific Festival Ballet is a
501 (c)(3) Non-Profit corporation.

TAX ID# 95-4776048

January 18, 2024

Dear Ventura County Board of Supervisors,

I hope this letter finds you well. My name is Kim Maselli and I am the artistic director of Pacific Festival Ballet. I am reaching out to you today to share a bit of what Pacific Festival Ballet has contributed to the performing arts in Ventura County for over 30 years.

Pacific Festival Ballet is a non-profit ballet company based in Thousand Oaks, and we are honored to represent the Bank of America Performing Arts Center as one of three resident companies along with 5-Star Theatricals and New West Symphony.

Our mission is to impart the finest in dance education along with producing world-class performances for our community to enjoy. PFB just completed our 29th season of The Nutcracker selling out five performances at the Kavli Theatre. Our 2023 holiday season alone brought 9,000 patrons to the Civic Arts Plaza. PFB's spring and summer seasons each year offer the traditional ballet classics along with original, innovated dance productions designed to inspire new generations of ballet fans. Annually we are thrilled to perform for over 15K theatre guests.

Pacific Festival Ballet's community outreach program, Ballet Today, is very important to us. Through fundraising efforts and grants we provide the opportunity for underserved families and children in Ventura County to attend our ballets, some for the very first time. We strive to bring 5K children and families to the theatre each year.

The last component of our dance education is provided through PFB's training school, California Dance Theatre, which was founded in 1985. For almost 40 years we have trained thousands of dancers in the greater Conejo Valley and many have gone on to illustrious dance careers around the country.

As one of the largest dance organizations in Ventura County we remain committed to providing the finest in dance training and live performances. We rely on ticket sales, community support and grants to keep Pacific Festival Ballet flourishing.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Kim Maselli

[illegible]

Ventura County Arts Organization:

Pacific Festival Ballet Dances
-Board of Directors signatures

[illegible]

December 2023

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County Government Center
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura CA 93009

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[illegible]

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December 2023

JohnNicholsGallery.com



Ventura County Board of Supervisors
County Government Center
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura CA 93009

117 N. 10th Street | Phone: 805.501.7011
Santa Paula, Suite 206 | Email: sespenichols@gmail.com

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John Nichols
Vice President of SANTA PAULA
ART MUSEUM,
Past President of SP HISTORICAL SOCIETY
Active in All The ARTS since opening
my ART Gallery in 1984
ACTIVE in several Non Profits

The Kingsmen Shakespeare Company

The Kingsmen Shakespeare Company is a not-for-profit 501(c)(3) professional theatre company based at California Lutheran University. The Kingsmen Shakespeare Company's mission of "...presenting professional programs and performances of the works of William Shakespeare for the entertainment and education of people of all ages" has been pursued in all of our activities since the founding of the company. The Kingsmen Shakespeare Company evolved from what was initially two weekends of a single production in the park on the California Lutheran University campus during the summer of 1997 to become an organization sponsoring four major programs: The Kingsmen Shakespeare Festival, The Shakespeare Educational Tour (SET), Camp Shakespeare, and the Kingsmen Apprentice/Intern program. Education is a primary focus of the Company, offering opportunities for elementary, high school and college students to work with and learn from a professional theatre company.

The Kingsmen Shakespeare Company produces two of Shakespeare's plays every summer in modified repertory, six-weekends, 18 shows, and attracts a season audience of over 6,000. Audience members from the southern California region comment about the high quality of the productions and the LA Times has called the Company "the definitive Shakespeare theatre company of Southern California." KSC also recruits high school students from local schools to work as Junior Apprentices during the summer, as well as college and graduate students from around the country serving as Interns and Apprentices, delivering on our promise of education to young developing thespians. The Company also provides workshops and presentations throughout the year to local schools, community organizations, and senior centers, educating the public about the history, culture, and literature of William Shakespeare and his era.

The company consists of nationally recognized directors, actors, musicians, designers, and technicians of the theatrical arts. The staff, crew, and actors for the summer Festival are hired each season through an extensive interview and audition process. A production staff of over 50 professionals builds an outdoor proscenium stage with lighting truss, a unique sound system, and original stage design and costuming. With an original music score produced for each show and a cast of over 20 Shakespearean actors, KSC provides an exceptional theatrical experience. Ticket prices are kept low to keep the productions accessible for families of all income levels, as well as the company commitment to keeping the Festival free for all under the age of 18 makes the need for outside funding essential. Ticket revenue accounts for less than half of the summer budget, the balance coming from donors and grants.

The Shakespeare Educational Tour (SET) brings live theatre into elementary schools throughout Ventura County. Six actors provide workshops and an abbreviated version of one of Shakespeare's plays to each school that we visit. This spring we will be visiting nineteen schools in Oxnard, and three in the Conejo Valley. There is a critical funding need for this program as well.

The summer Festival attracts audiences from all around Southern California and even many from out of state that are introduced to the beauty of the Conejo Valley. As a member of the international Shakespeare Theatre Association we also receive worldwide recognition.

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December 2023

Ventura County Board of Supervisors
County Government Center
800 S. Victoria Avenue
Ventura CA 93009

RE: Board Action on the Use of Arts Community Funds on November 7, 2023

Dear Supervisors:

We write this letter with a twofold purpose. First and foremost, we would like to thank the Board of Supervisors for your creation of the first arts grant program in the county of Ventura. However we are also compelled to express our dismay and disappointment at the Board's process and direction to staff in this matter and our dissatisfaction with the inequitable and adverse consequences of this action.

On October 11, 2022, the Board approved its State and Local Fiscal Recovery Funds (SLFRF) Plan, allocating \$1,000,000 to the Arts Community. The Board identified the Arts Community as a Priority with Countywide Arts and Culture as the Project. The Project is described as *"to provide services and resources in support of arts & culture organizations and projects. **Particular emphasis is to be placed on communities most impacted by the pandemic** and activities that align with the County Economic Vitality Strategic Plan's (EVSP) focus on the creative economy"*. EVSP Strategy A.6. reads: Create a countywide arts and culture Collaborative.

The arts community appreciated this action and awaited the customary notice of funds availability (NOFA) along with the application and award process. Here is the agenda item as posted:

Receive and File a Report, and Provide Direction Regarding, the Proposed Use of Arts Community Funds Designated by your Board on October 11, 2022 in the Amount of \$1,000,000; Authorization for the County Executive Office to Implement the Three Proposed Arts Community Programs Identified in the Report; Approval of, and Authorization for the County Executive Office to Negotiate, Execute and Make Minor Agreements to Support the Administration and Implementation of These Programs with the Ventura County Community Foundation and Other Service Providers in a Total Cumulative Not-to-Exceed Amount of \$100,000. LEVINE ACT ITEM (County Executive Office – 15 Minutes)
CEO RECOMMENDS APPROVAL AS PROPOSED

However on November 7th, the Board, led by Supervisors Gorell and LaVere and in a unanimous 5-0 vote, took the extraordinary action of directing “one-time funding grants of \$250,000 each to the Rubicon Theater Company and New West Symphony” (Board of Supervisors Summary Minutes, Agenda Item #61). We are dismayed, shocked, surprised and disappointed with the Board’s lack of process in this unanimous decision for the following reasons:

1. The Board completely disregarded the recommendation of the County CEO and staff for the proposed plan to distribute these funds and took a completely new course of action in the process, timeline and distribution.
2. There was no transparency about this action. There was no indication in the Board Letter that any funds would be allocated at this meeting, certainly not in direct contravention of the following identified Overall Program Outcomes:
 - a. Accelerate the recovery of the arts community in the County through **widespread government support**
 - b. **Support widespread sustainability** in the community with workshops and training
 - c. Deepen the County’s relationship **with the arts community**
3. There was no vetting of the two organizations (of which we are aware). The Board was not provided any verifiable data to show that the two organizations meet the Project Description of “Particular emphasis is to be placed on **communities** (emphasis added) most impacted by the pandemic...” but instead relied entirely on hearsay.
4. Supervisors Gorell and LaVere used the words “slight” and “pillars” repeatedly and wholly inaccurately in reference to their “slight amendment” to the staff recommendation and, to Rubicon Theater Company and New West Symphony respectively. Giving away half of the available funds to just two organizations without vetting is not a “slight amendment” by any measure, it’s just simple favoritism. In addition, to suggest these two organizations are “pillars” holding up the county’s arts community is a terribly scornful insult to all other arts organizations. There are scores of other hardworking organizations locally with equal or greater community reach and impact. This is an important reason why matters of process should not be bypassed by “slight amendments”.
5. \$500,000 or 50% of the available \$1,000,000 went to only 2 of approximately 300 nonprofit organizations in the county.
6. The grant funds were awarded in a non-competitive manner to only two of six Tier 1 (large) nonprofits. The remaining four Tier 1 nonprofits will compete for funding along with approximately 290 Tier 2 and Tier 3 (small and medium) nonprofits, and will have less funds made available to those four remaining Tier 1 nonprofits than had they been included in the staff recommended category or Tier 1.
7. Less funds are available to the rest of the nonprofits.

8. All of the other valued and hard-working nonprofits in the county will ethically and morally compete for funding, while Rubicon Theater Company and New West Symphony were given grants without competition.
9. Tier 2 and Tier 3 (small and medium) nonprofits will need to compete against four Tier 1 (large) nonprofits for funding.
10. One or more Supervisors stated that these two organizations "earned" the grants by assisting with the County's efforts regarding the source of funds for this program. We ask: What comparable opportunities, if any, were provided to any other arts organizations? In addition, there were many organizations who assisted the County's early efforts regarding the source of funds for this program. To ignore their early participation is a huge omission,
11. What oversight will the County, through its grants administrator (Ventura County Community Foundation) utilize to ensure that Rubicon Theater Company and New West Symphony expend the grant funds in compliance with the program's identified purposes?

Notwithstanding the above, we are confident there is a remedy to erase the adverse and inequitable impacts created by the Board. We look forward to the opportunity of working with staff in this effort. It should be noted that county staff and Mr. David Yoshitomi in particular are to be commended for their work product presented to the Board.

The signatories to this letter request that the Board of Supervisors immediately address our underlying concerns with how the Board conducted business on November 7, 2023. Ventura County government enjoys a well-earned fiduciary reputation as good stewards of the public's resources. Each member of the Board of Supervisors betrayed the public's trust in this instance.

We look forward to an open dialogue on how we can move forward to make this process fair and equitable to all nonprofit arts organizations in Ventura County.

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