

**From:** [Erin Pohl](#)  
**To:** [ClerkoftheBoard](#)  
**Cc:** [Claudia Bill-de la Peña](#)  
**Subject:** Agenda Item No. 61  
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Honorable Chair LaVere and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

I am writing in strong support of funding for the New West Symphony under agenda item No. 61.

I have spent the past 30 years supporting music and the arts as a volunteer, donor, parent of an Oak Park student and member of the community. I raised a son who is a fine musician and now makes his living in our community as a songwriter, producer, artist and teacher. The gifts he received and passed on cannot be measured in a budget. The same group of young people from Oak Park, Westlake HS and Agoura who gathered in my home after performances were among those who played with or came to enjoy his band last Friday night at Cornell Winery. Music is not only performance it brings communities together - it's the glue that has kept some of these young people here to raise their families and continue their contributions. It all begins with the first time a person experiences a performance and in young people as we saw last Saturday at the New West performance- it continues with that spark becoming a young musician. It's always the first budget cut in education - even though music and the arts support and feed many other disciplines.

You are to be commended for sowing a seed for arts and culture in Ventura County in this first crucial step. Please consider supporting the New West Symphony directly today.

Sincerely  
Erin Pohl

**ERIN POHL & BOB PEARSON**



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