

From: [Vicky Rathje](#)
To: [ClerkoftheBoard](#)
Cc: [Claudia Bill-de la Peña](#); [Natalia Staneva](#); [Michael Christie](#)
Subject: Agenda Item No. 61
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Honorable Chair LaVere and Members of the Board of Supervisors:

I am writing to encourage you to support funding for the New West Symphony under agenda item No. 61.

As a New West Board Member and Chair of SummerFest I am passionate about bringing rich and diverse arts to Ventura County to serve the various demographics of our community, helping to strengthen our community.

New West Music Director, Grammy Award Winning Conductor Michael Christie has and continues to cater to the various sectors of our community with programming for the inaugural 2023 SummerFest, an open-air two-day music festival at the future home of the Moorpark Bowl at Moorpark College, SummerFest 2023 featured exceptional performances by Grammy-winning and Billboard-charting artists spanning diverse genres including Jazz, Country, Classic Rock, Mariachi, World Music, and more.

The grand finale of SummerFest exposed families to the concept that classical music is intertwined into our everyday lives. When they enjoy a blockbuster film where symphonic scores add life and breadth to the experience, they are experiencing classical music.. Maestro Christie brought to life the adventures of Indiana Jones and The Raiders of the Los Ark™ with John Williams' epic score performed live to picture by a full symphony orchestra.

Please support the New West Symphony today to continue to grow and grow our community.

Sincerely,

Vicky Rathje