

# RESTORE THE ARTS IN VENTURA COUNTY



## **Ventura Music Festival**

From Board President Randy Hinton and Executive Director Susan Scott  
472 E. Santa Clara St.  
Ventura, California 93001  
Phone: (805) 648-3146

## **Board of Supervisors**

County of Ventura  
*Attn: Agenda Item 48*  
*Oct. 11 2022 Meeting*

As VMF Board members, County residents, festival-goers and other supporters we ask the Board of Supervisors to create a “Relief and Recovery Fund for the Arts” with 5% of its ARPA funding. While the Art sector’s economic impact in the County matches Agriculture’s, the pandemic laid bare the particular vulnerability of the arts ecosystem, beset historically by little to no government support or corporate funding, and limited foundation grants. Covid’s hit on the sector, especially performing arts, has been devastating. VMF alone sustained 50% losses in income. The American Recovery Act itself lists Arts and Culture high among priority sectors to be funded, and indeed, it is already an express area of interest for the Board of Supervisors.

Besides helping to drive and build the economy, the petitioners value greatly the impacts of music and the arts on many other things: like youth academic achievement, mental health, emotional intelligence, the human spirit, community-building. As for VMF’s place in the County, we are considered one of its prominent music resources along with Ojai Music Festival and New West Symphony. Founded 27 years ago in response to a City of Ventura survey calling for a signature cultural event, our mission is to build community through live, diverse world-class music. This year, 3,300 Ventura County residents attended the eight live VMF concerts presented thus far. To assure cost was not a barrier, we underwrote fees for students and financially-challenged others (a third of the audience). A mixed-genre music program means that festival-goers will see and hear themselves reflected in the music.

As to ultimate funding guidelines and allocations, we respectfully suggest a broad and equitable distribution plan that ensures a relationship between the amount granted and: organizational history (service years); number of attendees/participants; economic impact; budget size; professional quality of product.

Time and again, we have witnessed shared attendance at live music performances and other arts events bringing people together in palpable celebrations of joy and community. We ask the Board to invest in the recovery of the Ventura County arts sector so that it can go forward enriching lives and communities in countless diverse and creative ways. At this historic moment, you have an opportunity to affect positive outcomes and lead development of a robust arts infrastructure in our county. Please do so.

# RESTORE THE ARTS IN VENTURA COUNTY (Item 48, Oct. 11 2022)

#	Submission Date	First Name	Last Name	E-mail	Comments
1	10-Oct-22	Analee	Gutierrez	Shy21redroses@gmail.com	
2	10-Oct-22	Craig	Rosen	crosen@vcartscouncil.org	The arts stand out as an adversely impacted business, especially the performing arts. The arts are also unique in the role they play in recovery from the pandemic, on a personal/emotional level and with their impact on the community as a whole.
3	10-Oct-22	Jacqueline	arevalo	jackelyn11@icloud.com	
4	9-Oct-22	Rachel	Rivera	rivera.rachel13@yahoo.com	
5	9-Oct-22	Timothy	Smith	tmsmith93003@yahoo.com	The Ventura Music Festival and other arts organizations make Ventura a truly livable city that nurtures the whole human person and foster a real sense of community. More evidently, the economic impact however is indisputable and easily measurable. The art events available in Ventura add to the vitality and value of the city and are included as selling points by every real estate agent and by business recruiters. The more events we can provide in our city limit, the more dollars will stay here and the less traffic out of town on the weekend.
6	9-Oct-22	Penelope	Barnds	penny@pbarnds.com	
7	9-Oct-22	Diana	Smith	DianaSmith9@yahoo.com	City of Ventura and Ventura County are very fortunate to have Ventura Music Festival as a source of joy and healing, as well as an important carrier of world culture and civilization. It is absolutely imperative that organizations like this are provided the necessary financial means and organizational support for our community to thrive and flourish.
8	9-Oct-22	Darren	Breit	darren.breit@gmail.com	
9	9-Oct-22	Samuel	Kuziel	scasl@mail.com	
10	8-Oct-22	Dennis	Jones	DJones@mwgjlaw.com	
11	7-Oct-22	Marian	Weaver		I expect that the New West Symphony and Camerata Pacifica and others also suffered greatly and continue to be impacted by audience concerns with exposure to Covid. If we loose these musical bodies and their theatrical counterparts, they cannot be easily replaced. It would be a cultural tragedy.
12	7-Oct-22	Alan	Kirschbaum	aik@roadrunner.com	A vibrant community values both the visual and the performing arts.
13	7-Oct-22	Randolph	Hinton	randy@upventura.com	
14	7-Oct-22	Julie	Ward	judithjulie@roadrunner.com	We love the Music Festival, the Rubicon, the New West Symphony, the Thousand Oaks Symphony, Ventura Ballet, Conejo Players, Hillcrest Center for the Arts and on and on. Please support them!
15	7-Oct-22	Carolyn	Mullin	mullin.c@gmail.com	The arts in our community are historically and perpetually underfunded and unsupported. With the recent closing of so many iconic venues (Art City, CA Museum of Art - Thousand Oaks, Carnegie Art Museum), an infusion of relief and recovery funding would help stabilize and strengthen our existing arts venues and organizations. Our community deserves to be healthy, vibrant and verdant.
16	7-Oct-22	Irma	Paramo	imp.gypsy@yahoo.com	We all need to support the arts in Ventura County. The arts are food for our souls!!!!
17	7-Oct-22	Kay	Liddi	kayandlou@att.net	VMF is such a valuable asset to the City of Ventura. It provides its citizens, & visitors, the best of musicians & entertainers and must be supported by the City, the County & the Board of Supervisors! Thank you!
18	7-Oct-22	Liz	Galvan	luvsrok1@sbcglobal.net	Healing a community through the arts, specifically with music, is a necessity to respond to. We've all had losses and know that music has been the balm which sustains this human capacity to move forward. Just imagine life without it?
19	7-Oct-22	Mary	Kerrigan	mcowen_3@msn.com	Please support the arts in Ventura County.
20	7-Oct-22	Carol	Browning	outofthewaycb@gmail.com	
21	7-Oct-22	Andrea	Massion	almassion@sbcglobal.net	

22	7-Oct-22	Barbara	Meister	bmeister3619@gmail.com	The ARTS are an important part of a cultured community!! Please create a "Relief and Recovery Fund for the Arts!! Thank you.
23	7-Oct-22	Lynette	Inouye	llinouye@gmail.com	Music brings me so much joy, I'd rather lose my sense of sight rather than my sense of hearing.
24	7-Oct-22	Brett	Cripe	heardmuzik@gmail.com	
25	7-Oct-22	Seth	Oster	sethandrey@gmail.com	
26	7-Oct-22	John	Biggs	johnbiggs@consortpress.com	
27	6-Oct-22	Julia	Stephen	julia.a.stephen@gmail.com	The arts are an integral part of the community to bring people together for greater understanding and personal fulfillment. Please support the arts for Ventura
28					County.
29	6-Oct-22	Candace	Reynolds	CandaceJReynolds@gmail.com	
30	6-Oct-22	Patricia	Malone	pat2malone@mail.com	
31	6-Oct-22	Stacey	Stapleton	stacey@imagestuff.com	
32	6-Oct-22	Susanna	Miller	x-lydia@rocketmail.com	
33	6-Oct-22	Carol	Hughes	carolhughes023@gmail.com	
34	6-Oct-22	Barbara	Dincau	barbaradincau@mac.com	The arts are a vital part of our Ventura community. Arts contribute to tourism that supports our economy. We all benefit when we come together to enjoy music, art, theater.
35	6-Oct-22	Joyce	Gelsinger	travjoy2@gmail.com	
36	6-Oct-22	Joanne	Kaplan	monjo1@roadrunner.com	Personally, my life is enriched by the variety of musical experiences the Ventura Music Festival offers each year. All of the arts, from The Rubicon Theatre, Ventura Art and History Museum, challenge us to appreciate, to entertain, to learn, listen and feel. We need to encourage the next generation. Please support the arts with 5% of the ARPA funding.
37	6-Oct-22	John	Krotcher	jkrotcher@yahoo.com	Ventura county's arts scene deserves to be adequately funded. Schools often reduce funding of the arts to save money. Both children and adults benefit from the arts' contribution to the culture. Only 5% of ARPA funds seems reasonable.
38	6-Oct-22	Marvin	Kwit	kwitma@gmail.com	County Supervisors please support this request for a Relief and Recovery Fund for the Arts in Ventura County. Thank you.
39	6-Oct-22	David	Cristofar	mrvannuys@aol.com	I support the arts!
40	6-Oct-22	Ruth	McAllister	ruthann@west.net	
41	6-Oct-22	Margaret E	hmonds-Mill	beth8888@roadrunner.com	Save the arts
42	6-Oct-22	Ira	Nepus	iranepus@aol.com	Please keep this group's high level of presenting great music and the Arts to our area of Ventura County. So necessary. Thank you!
43	6-Oct-22	John	Murphy	jmurphmusic@gmail.com	
44	6-Oct-22	Sheila	McCollum	skane756@gmail.com	Please help in restoring the arts in Ventura County.
45	6-Oct-22	Martha	Jaffe	p_mjaffe@yahoo.com	
46	6-Oct-22	Brett	Hilton	brett@bretthilton.com	
47	6-Oct-22	Diana	Troik	dtroika@gmail.com	
48	6-Oct-22	Bruce	Schoppe	bschoppe6698@sbcglobal.net	The Arts are important to society. We're fortunate in Ventura County to have several varied organizations that provide cultural enrichment to all ages. All of them struggle, paycheck to paycheck, as it were. An infusion of cash from ARPA funding would help enormously.
49	6-Oct-22	Linus	Raibys	lugarladjr@gmail.com	
50	6-Oct-22	Igor	Gavryushkin	igavryus@netscape.net	
51	6-Oct-22	Mady	Julian	pennyscamore@sbcglobal.net	Music and art sustained me during Covid. There can never be enough of it.
52	6-Oct-22	susan	scott	ss@venturamusicfestival.org	
53	6-Oct-22	Edilia	Morrow	Edilmorr5@aol.com	I love music and always enjoy your concerts.
54	6-Oct-22	Bob	Naylor	naylorsrwe@gmail.com	Great idea!!

55	6-Oct-22	Lawrence	Manson	lmanson@west.net	Please fund the Ventura Music Festival. It's important for our community.
56	6-Oct-22	Delia	Gorey	deliag@west.net	Please fund the Ventura Music Festival, it is important !
57	6-Oct-22	eileen	keenan	jwhiteii@roadrunner.com	this last season there was a conflict with Music Under the Stars on Saturday..
58	6-Oct-22	anthony	antinarelli	tonyantini805@gmail.com	
59	6-Oct-22	Kathleen	Bonn	kbonn@roadrunner.com	
60	6-Oct-22	Seth	Brandes	seth.brandes@verizon.net	
61	6-Oct-22	donald	rodrigues	pachort@earthlink.net	This is a great opportunity to support and expand the much needed support for the arts which has declined substantially for years.
62	6-Oct-22	Nancy	Hankinson	njhankinson@gmail.com	
63	6-Oct-22	Carlton	Nebrekliensk	cnebrek@aol.com	
64	6-Oct-22	Allan	Crocket	Slidemaster101@aol.com	
65	6-Oct-22				
66	6-Oct-22	James	Slentz	randyslentz@yahoo.com	
67	6-Oct-22	Leslie	Jacobs	lesliejacobs3@hotmail.com	
68	6-Oct-22	Peggy	Kelly	santapaulatimes@gmail.com	The arts educate, soothe, entertain, inspire and open the imagination of all who enjoy them.
69					Please show support for Ventura County-based art associations, from theater to music and everything in between.
70					Thank you.
71	6-Oct-22	Joan	Barminski	jbarminski@gmail.com	
72	6-Oct-22	Julie	Henry	julieahenry48@gmail.com	Please help financially to Restore the Arts in Ventura County
73	6-Oct-22	Kathy	Wingland	kmwingland@gmail.com	Support of the Ventura arts community benefits us all. It's an investment that just makes sense.
74	6-Oct-22	George	Benz	georgefbenz@yahoo.com	Go for it.
75	6-Oct-22	Michael	Kozubek	mkozubek@apu.edu	Art & Music are necessities in the human experience & have been needed more than now.
76	6-Oct-22	Elizabeth	Bailey	betsyb805@gmail.com	Fund the ARTS!
77	6-Oct-22	Jessica	Goodwin	jagster2@gmail.com	
78	6-Oct-22	Lin	Rolens	lrolens@aol.com	Ventura has already lost the entirely original and remarkable Art City; we could be a thriving hub of the arts if we would invest in our artists, in bringing artists of world class standing to our community, and in arts education. We do not want to be another vapid bedroom community; we have an opportunity to use the gifted people we have here to create an ongoing culture of the arts that enriches the lives of all.
79	6-Oct-22	joel	gutman	gutmanjoel@yahoo.com	we love the festival
80	6-Oct-22	S BLAKE	WADE	wadelaw1988@gmail.com	
81	6-Oct-22	Doug	Hardie	bc979@lafn.org	Salary and other expenses are not arts. I wonder if this could be a class action law suit.
82	6-Oct-22	Karen	Hoffberg	karenhoffberg@gmail.com	as a member of the board of the Ventura County Arts Council, I have been working to bring the Arts back to Ventura in a strong and collaborative way. Perhaps if the County supports the Arts, The city of Ventura will also step up and support what used to be a vibrant center for arts
83					Karen
84	6-Oct-22	Michael	Connolly	irrover1@yahoo.com	
85	6-Oct-22	James	Doctolero	doctolerojames@icloud.com	With arbitrary mass developments being pushed through, funding for the Arts is more vital now, then ever. Bring ahead of the curve, has never been our city's leadership mind set. But now is a chance to embrace All the arts, for a creative, forward thinking Art Community, that can bring national recognition to our Community and it's people! Art is for Everyone. Not just for those who can afford it.
86	6-Oct-22	Tom	McGee	mcgee.tom7@gmail.com	
87	6-Oct-22	Andrea	Contarino	spaulding01@hotmail.com	

88	6-Oct-22	Renay	Gregg	rangregg@aol.com	I used to travel up to the central coast to the Mozart Festival. Now thanks to the VMF I can enjoy fabulous music close to home. The VMF has injected life into our community. Let's make it bigger and better!!!
89	6-Oct-22	Fundi	Legohn	onefundimon@hotmail.com	I support!!!
90	6-Oct-22	Elana	Kundell	ekundell@gmail.com	I strongly support these statements. The arts are a crucial economic sector that have significant impact on community well-being, mental health, and positive benefits for at-risk youth. Money invested locally in the arts has shown a 5x return. Historically underfunded, it actually impacts many other areas of our lives, tangibly and intangibly.
91	6-Oct-22	Michael	Russell	cardcat57@gmail.com	Restore the arts in Ventura county with American rescue plan funding.
92	6-Oct-22	John	Connor	jconnor@prodigy.net	The Arts are essential in Ventura County.
93	6-Oct-22	Edith	Hendrix	aunteady25@gmail.com	I support this 100%.
94	6-Oct-22	steven	sills	topseed11@gmail.com	
95	6-Oct-22	Celia	Sisman	celiasisman1947@gmail.com	
96	6-Oct-22	Evan	Soenke	ejsoenke@aol.com	"Life beats down and crushes the soul and art reminds you that you have one." Stella Adler
97	6-Oct-22	Paula-Jeanne	Feinberg	sweetpeeje@aol.com	Please do what you can to help Restore The Arts in Ventura County...for our children's sake, for the love of art, for the mental and emotional stability the art provide for everyone!
98	6-Oct-22	Lynn	Sacco	lynntanner@sbcglobal.net	
99	6-Oct-22	Kristi	vanKeersbilck	vankeersbilckfamily@gmail.com	
100	6-Oct-22	Mark	Stern	marks0102@yahoo.com	Preserve the arts.
101	6-Oct-22	Den	Morris	denmorris333@gmail.com	Why? Because we need it. Thank you.
102	6-Oct-22	Johanna	Gabbard	gojogab@aol.com	In this day and age of division, our investment in a platform that connects us together is more important than ever.
103	6-Oct-22	Lenore	Harris	lzharris@roadrunner.com	
104	6-Oct-22	Kari	Olson	olsonkb@hotmail.com	
105	6-Oct-22	Flora B	Stratas	stratasfb@gmail.com	
106	6-Oct-22	Marge	Karney	mpmk@roadrunner.com	Please yes, yes restore the arts in Ventura. The city is very limited culturally, to not restore would begin a culture desert here
107	6-Oct-22	Dan	St Ledger	danmessage@yahoo.com	I attended a free Ventura Arts Festival event in Ventura. Before I went, I went to a Ventura restaurant, bar, and paid for parking. I hope you continue to fund similar things.
108	6-Oct-22	Carolyn	Wood	rtoucou@aol.com	
109	6-Oct-22	Adele	Beardsley	adele.beardsley@yahoo.com	
110	6-Oct-22	Charles	Levin	wmlevin@gmail.com	
111	6-Oct-22	Suzy	Melonas	suzymelonas@roadrunner.com	
112	6-Oct-22	Nancy	Graham	nancyjgraham@sbcglobal.net	Please consider thoughtfully this request. The benefits for the community at large are worthy of the allocation.
113	6-Oct-22	Ann	Huston	annhuston@earthlink.net	
114	6-Oct-22	Claudia	Davoli	cookqn@yahoo.com	I ask the Board to invest in the recovery of the Ventura County arts sector so that it can go forward enriching lives and communities in countless diverse and creative ways.
115	6-Oct-22	Don	Henniger	dmh5552@gmail.com	The ROI for Arts and Cultural funding is well documented. Artists and makers are some of the most financially marginalized and therefore vulnerable in any economic turmoil. Support significant funding for Arts and Cultural work.
116	6-Oct-22	Tim	Martinez	timwoodwork@gmail.com	I support the arts in Ventura County
117	6-Oct-22	Blake	Kasting	kastingblake@yahoo.com	
118	6-Oct-22	Richard	Kirkland	rskirkland@earthlink.net	
119	6-Oct-22	John	Baker	jsb44@sbcglobal.net	
120	6-Oct-22	Carolyn	Dolen	cdolen@sbcglobal.net	The arts keep us alive!
121	6-Oct-22	Tim	Hedrick	timothyhedrick@sbcglobal.net	

122	6-Oct-22	Fred	Schrag	fredschrag@gmail.com	
123	6-Oct-22	Mona	Henniget	monahenniger@gmail.com	Arts are our history, our culture. They are a chance to connect and learn. Please restore.
124	6-Oct-22	J	Davidson	jaz1952@gmail.com	Yes let's have more music but also more things for the pre-teens and teens, like dances or concerts for them! The ones who are not "athletically inclined" have no social avenues, no places to go to just hang with their friends. There are SO MANY vacant blogs in Ventura County that could be made into places with pool tables, music, basketball hoops. Let's do more than just music with that 5%, let's fix human needs & socializing for our children.
125	6-Oct-22	Fred	Evans	fred@fredevans.com	
126	6-Oct-22	Lynda	Evans	fredandlynda@fredevans.com	
127	6-Oct-22	jeffrey	specks	jiffyjgs@yahoo.com	The arts are what makes us truly human -- and enhance the attraction of our county to others
128	6-Oct-22	Nan	Drake	nanodrake@aol.com	As the PR Director for EJ Harrison & Sons I have learned first hand the importance of all of the arts-- we support most of the major events with a sponsorship--this is truly a gift back to the communities that we serve and is appreciated by all.
129	6-Oct-22	sandra	wolfe	sandiewolfe@live.com	
130	6-Oct-22	Contarino	Freddie	venturacontarino@gmail.com	
131	6-Oct-22	Annette	Halpern	annettehalpern4@gmail.com	The city needs to support performing arts as they nourish the soul and are a boon to our community.
132	6-Oct-22	Matt	Cook	ED@pacificoperaproject.com	Please continue funding to restore the arts in Ventura County! Organizations like VMF are vital to our community's growth.
133	6-Oct-22	Richard	McDonald	rmcdonald@carlsonnicholas.com	Great idea. Fully support it.
134	6-Oct-22	Grace	Douglas	douglasgracie3@gmail.com	This is such an important cause!
135	5-Oct-22	susan	scott	ss@venturamusicfestival.org	Now is the time