

October 11, 2022

Dear Ventura County Board of Supervisors,

I urge you to increase funding for arts organizations in Ventura County. Arts and culture are critical to the socio emotional growth and mental health of our community, specifically our young people.

As the former New West Symphony Harmony Project Director, I had the privilege of witnessing the transformation of many children and youth who participated in the program. Students who started out as either extremely shy, or lacking confidence, blossomed into confident young musicians and artists over the years. Other students who had academic challenges or found it difficult to focus in class were eventually able to sit through a two hour rehearsal, fully engaged and determined to improve in order to create a musical piece with their peers. Brothers, sisters, and parents supported their students in concerts and special events, which provided opportunities for families to come together in celebration, building a healthier school culture and climate.

Unfortunately, access to high quality arts instruction is rarely available to those who cannot afford it. By investing in our local arts organizations, you all have the potential to transform our community for the better.

Please consider providing the funding that our young people deserve.

Thank you,

Andrea Landin

Andrea Landin, Senior Director of Programs
East Bay Center for the Performing Arts
Richmond, CA