



Date: April 1, 2022

To: Members of the Culver City Cultural Affairs Commission

From: Jim B. Clarke, Chair, Culver City Arts Foundation

Subj: **QUARTERLY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD JAN 1 – MAR 31**

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Culver City Arts Foundation (CCAF) and the City of Culver City (City), this is our quarterly report for the period of Jan. 1 to March 31, 2022.

Our bylaws were amended last August to, in part, allow for two additional board members, which would bring the total to 11. Because we are an all-volunteer organization, we felt it would be helpful to expand the board to be able to complete our ambitious work plan (which was submitted to the City in October 2021). Unfortunately, first with the resignation of Len Dickter from the board late last year for family reasons and the more recent resignations of Eric Sims and Kathy Sue Holtorf for work reasons, we were left with only six board members. (Eric and Kathy Sue agreed to stay on as members of the Advisory Committee.) We conducted an outreach effort to recruit more board members. I am pleased to report that, at our March meeting, we added as new board members David Voncannon, Dr. James Limbaugh and Shona Gupta. We are still interested in adding two more members and will continue our recruitment efforts. In addition, Maria Molica Kurtz, a local artist who will help us identify and collaborate with other artists, has joined the Advisory Committee.

In February, we completed a second round of microgrants to local artists through our Arts Resiliency Fund. The fund provides as much as \$1,000 to local artists to help them meet living expenses during the pandemic. In the second round, we awarded \$11,600, bringing the total given out in the two rounds to \$21,000. The Culver City Observer highlighted our awardees in a series of successive front-page stories. It is our intention to conduct a third round, though the emphasis might shift from individual artists to arts organizations. The grant amounts might increase, and the purpose will be to support operational needs.

On Feb. 26, we held the 2nd Annual Culver City Book Festival at the Wende Museum. It would have been our fourth festival had we not canceled the event two years in a row because of the pandemic. The event's purpose is to provide a low-cost alternative for local small book publishers who cannot afford to participate in the Los Angeles Times Book Festival. In addition to the City, co-sponsors included Vagabond Books, Beyond Baroque, Village Well Books & Coffee and the Wende Museum. Several authors and 25 publishers displayed their works.

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Readings were conducted in person at the festival and internationally via Zoom. Other activities included workshops and a kids' podcast. The free event, which attracted 504 attendees, was a tremendous success, and we look forward to hosting the event next year.

Now that life has more or less returned to the new normal, we have started, once again, reaching out to corporate donors in face-to-face meetings. I am pleased to report that we are expecting to receive, by the beginning of April, a major donation from a tech company that will allow us to continue our work with the Arts Resiliency Fund. Even as venues reopen and performances begin anew, we find that the arts and culture community in Culver City is still shy of a full recovery. We plan to use our fundraising efforts and funding to assist arts organizations with their operational needs.

As detailed in our MOU with the City, we submitted our suggestions to the City and the Cultural Affairs Commission for items to be included in the Cultural Affairs Workplan. We also had the opportunity to discuss our ideas with City staff. Unfortunately, we were not able to present our recommendations to the CAC nor was the CAC able to vote on the workplan before its presentation to the City Council. Nonetheless, we will continue to advocate for the recommendations that we made.

Looking ahead, in April we will start holding joint quarterly board and Advisory Committee meetings to better coordinate our activities, which primarily occur through our committee structure. In May, we intend to hold our first Arts Meet-Up to bring together local artists, arts organizations, creative businesses, and donors to develop relationships and collaborations. We hope to be able to hold these events on a quarterly basis. In June, our MOU with the City expires, and we will start planning for any potential revisions. Our loan with the City is also up for review by the City Council. Lastly, we will be holding our annual elections for the board and officers and making appointments to the Advisory Committee.

Copies to:

Christine Byers, Cultural Affairs Manager
Shelly Wolfberg, Assistant to the City Manager