



MEMO

Date: July 8, 2021

To: Members of the Culver City Cultural Affairs Commission
From: Jim B. Clarke, Chair, Culver City Arts Foundation

Subj: **QUARTERLY REPORT FOR THE PERIOD APRIL 1-JUNE 30, 2021**

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 April 1 – June 30, 2021.

Despite the pandemic and the cancelation of in-person events, CCAF continued to remain active in promoting and supporting the arts in Culver City. We have been the co-sponsors, along with the Helms Bakery District, of "Projecting Possibilities", whereby each week a local artist is featured by projecting images of his or her art on the windows of the Helms Design Center in the evening. This program started in June 2020 and will run through August of this year. Artists receive a \$400 stipend. To date, we have paid out \$22,000 in stipends for "Projecting Possibilities" with the generous support of Walter Marks.

During this quarter, we were also the major funder of the extension of Alexey Steele as the City's Artist Laureate. We enjoy working with Alexey and were pleased to support his work with a contribution of \$4,000. To date, we have provided \$17,400 to the City in funding for this position. Our advisory committee member, Dr. Janet Hoult, has set aside funding to ensure the Artist Laureate program continues and we strongly encourage the City to fully support the Artist Laureate position.

We also continued our support for the City's Performing Arts Grants with a \$15,000 contribution. Dr. Tony Spano, of our board, has served on the City's review panel and has enjoyed this assignment. To date, we have provided \$40,000 to the City for the Performing Arts Grant.

While the City funds arts organizations for performing arts events, CCAF has been interested in expanding financial support to non-performing artists and arts organizations through our own grant program. However, because of the impact the pandemic has had on individual artists and their ability to meet their financial obligations, CCAF shifted its focus and established the Artists' Resiliency Fund (ARF). CCAF provides micro-grants of up to \$1,000 to local artists to help them meet their living expenses such as rent, health care or utilities. In the first round of micro grants, completed in June, CCAF provided nearly \$10,000 to 14 local artists. A second round of micro grants is scheduled for October.

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CCAF has launched a fundraising drive to support ARF. As a thank you to donors and to help publicize the fund, we created a Resiliency lawn/window sign and have begun distributing the signs throughout Culver City. We offer a sign to any member of the CAC, City Council or School Board that wishes one, regardless, if a donation is made though we welcome any contributions.

The end of the quarter also marked the end of our fiscal year. We held our annual meeting for the purpose of electing our board and our officers. I'm pleased to report that all our board members were reelected. That includes Kathy Sue Holtorf, Alicia Ide, Ken Mand, Sehnita Joshua Mattison, Eric Sims, Dr. Tony Spano and me. We have two openings on our board which we intend to fill in August. I am pleased that we have numerous individuals interested in serving on our board. We also elected our officers for the year. I will serve as Chair, Sehnita as Vice Chair, Eric as Secretary and Tony as Treasurer. We also have a number of individuals who have expressed interest in serving on our Advisory Committee.

Lastly, at the end of June, we presented a request to the City Council for forgiveness of our City loan of \$35,000. We thank the CAC for their support of our request. While the Council action was not what we had hoped for, their decision to continue the discussion during this next fiscal year both allows us the opportunity to continue to raise funds, to support City projects and to demonstrate that we have been good stewards of the loan funds and provided a substantial return on investment to the City.

Copy to

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