

Dear San Leandro City Council and City Manager Janelle Cameron:

As part of the City's mid-fiscal year budget modification in early 2025, the Arts, Culture and Library (ACL) Commission requests that its budget for fiscal year 2024-2025 be modified to match the budget it received in fiscal year 2023-2024. This will allow the ACL Commission to fund the City's expanded Arts and Culture Grant Program at the scale established in the 2024 cycle, as well as other priorities identified in the San Leandro Arts Master Plan. The fiscal impact to the City's 2024-2025 budget will be \$75,000.

In fiscal year 2024, the ACL Commission budget was \$150,000, plus \$7,059 in carry-over funds from fiscal year 2023. These funds were used to:

- Transform the City's Arts and Culture Grant program and provide \$78,663 in awards to 12 organizations and individuals with no overhead cost to the City;
- Underwrite Comedy in the Plaza: \$20,000
- Work with Local Arts Berkeley to create a Call for Art to ensure the display of public art through July 2025 at the Hesperian Triangle: \$17,500
- Fund production and installation of new, ongoing exhibit on recent City history at the San Leandro Arts and History Museum: \$26,180
- Partner with the Downtown San Leandro Community Benefit District for production and installation of Holiday Art Trees: \$11,840

We are grateful for the approved budget of \$75,000 for fiscal year 2024-2025. This will fund the ACL Commission's top priority of a vigorous Arts and Culture Grants program to support San Leandro artists and meaningfully contribute to the artist vibrancy of our city, albeit in a reduced format compared to the 2024 grant-making cycle. In addition to that program, we would like to continue to support San Leandro arts and culture in other ways that would require additional funds.

Our proposal for the budgetary increase of \$75,000 in 2025 is as follows:

- Additional \$35,000 for Arts and Culture Grants (bringing the total grant spend to \$110,000)
- \$20,000 to continue to fund temporary artwork in the Hesperian Triangle for a 1-year installation
- \$20,000 to fund an Art in Storefronts Program downtown

The ACL Commission is a working Commission that consists of passionate volunteers and is managed by our dedicated and insightful Secretary, Bill Sherwood. We have done a large amount of work in 2024 to revamp and re-launch the formerly anemic Art Grant program, and the incredible number of grant applications we received is a testament to community interest. We invite the City Council members to speak to their district's Commissioner(s) or to attend a meeting of the Commission to learn more about how we've fostered community art, culture, and learning in San Leandro.

We hope that City leadership sees the potential gains that could be realized by investing further in the arts to make San Leandro a more artistic, vibrant, and culturally rich city. Accordingly, we request the City increase the ACL Commission's 2024-2025 budget by \$75,000.

Thank you for your consideration!

Brody Q Scotland, Chair

On behalf of the San Leandro Arts, Culture and Library Commission