

City of San Leandro
Background and General Information on the Creation of an
Arts and Culture Commission

Background:

At the direction of the Mayor and City Council the City of San Leandro hosted an Arts and Culture Town Hall on November 16th 2013. Members of the public participated in this interactive meeting that commenced with an overview of cultural amenities that currently exist in San Leandro. An interactive group discussion was facilitated to prioritize ideas for advancing artistic and cultural life in San Leandro.

High Level of Interest:

- Develop an art clearinghouse or committee/commission to promote local events
- Promote a local art or film festival
- Expand food trucks to include music, dance, or the performing arts, etc.
- Provide a dedicated revenue stream for public art

Moderate Level of Interest:

- Harness open studio spaces in the industrial areas
- Promote East 14th Street as an art corridor or “gourmet alley”
- Authorize changes to development code and fee structures to promote art
- Convert vacant retail spaces into art or music studios

Lower Levels of Interest:

- “Activating” the Bay front
- Provide community members with a reason to “stay home”
- Work with other public agencies to promote art
- Utilize social media and traditional media to promote art and culture
- Harness Arts sections of local media
- Recognition of Youth-involved activities
- Infuse art into public infrastructure such as park benches, bike racks, bus benches
- Expand the beautification and aesthetic appeal of bike lanes
- Promote temporary art displays such as chalk art

Survey:

City	Commission Title
Alameda	Public Arts Commission
Benicia	Arts and Culture Commission
Berkeley	Civic Arts Commission
Dublin	Heritage and Cultural Arts Commission
Emeryville	Public Arts Committee
Livermore	Commission for the Arts
Oakland	Cultural Affairs Commission
Richmond	Arts and Culture Commission

Membership:

Nine (9) members (one member from each Council District/three at-large)
Four (4) year term

Scope:

Following are recommended duties and responsibilities for the Arts and Culture Commission:

- To encourage and promote art and cultural programs and activities within the City
- To make recommendations to City Council regarding local art and culture needs, activities, and programs including visual and performing arts
- To receive and gather input from the community on issues relevant to art and cultural policies
- To enhance the cultural life and increase community awareness of arts resources
- To work cooperatively with public and private agencies to procure space and opportunities for public art
- To advise and make recommendations to City Council on funding and matters of culture and arts in the community
- To support the goals and priorities of City Council

Powers and Duties:

In general, the Arts and Culture Commission will be charged with assessing, developing and promoting arts and cultural activities and opportunities to enrich and enhance the San Leandro community.

Meetings:

Establish meeting dates and times in the evening hours that occur at regular monthly intervals.