

Public Comment #1
BOS RCUJ. 4-5-24

From: Terry LeMoncheck <terry@artsandcultureeldorado.org>
Sent: Friday, April 5, 2024 1:52 PM
To: BOS-Clerk of the Board
Subject: Wednesday 4/10/24 Agenda Item # 24-0679 -- one more letter
Attachments: letters of support_final.pdf; miller 27mar24.pdf

Hello,

It has come to my attention that one letter of support was inadvertently omitted from the group I sent yesterday. I wasn't sure which was most appropriate – to resend the whole file with the letter included, or to send the letter as a separate attachment, so I am doing both. Please use the best option.

Thanks very much! Please let me know if you have any questions.

Terry

Terry LeMoncheck (she/her)
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Occupying the indigenous lands of the Nisenan and Miwok people

TO: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
FROM: Pete Miller, retired educator
RE: Arts and Culture El Dorado funding
DATE: March 27, 2024

Dear El Dorado County Board of Supervisors,

I write to you to urge you to continue funding for Arts and Culture El Dorado, the only local group dedicated to supporting all the arts in all corners of our county.

I have been involved in the arts in El Dorado County since 1971, first as a student and later as a teacher for 32 years at the local high schools teaching drama/theatre at El Dorado, Ponderosa and Union Mine High Schools. I also taught at the Sugarloaf Fine Arts Camp for many years and started the drama program in 1980. In 1971, there was no support program for any of the arts and, as a result, each arts group was totally on their own to find funding, facilities, publicity, community support, audience, and compete against other arts groups in search of the occasional meager monies and grants available.

Through hard work and dogged determination, some of the local groups succeeded and even banded together to expand their offerings. But despite their best efforts, El Dorado County arts remained basically separate and independent groups competing against each other with no guiding vision for arts education and appreciation. As a result, arts in the county were hit and miss, some groups ascendent while most groups floundered.

This continued for many years until the emergence of Arts and Culture El Dorado, dedicated to support of all the arts in our county. They brought organization, vision, and support to a wide variety of the arts, from music to theatre to dance to painting, sculpture and photography. One of the most memorable nights I experienced in Placerville recently was a photography exhibition focused on rock climbing in our beautiful county courtesy of Arts and Culture at their office in Placerville.

Artists now have a resource to turn to in search of funding, professional support, and advice. Many groups of county residents benefit from these resources and programs: veterans, high school students, actors, artists, poets, dancers, singers, musicians, senior citizens and young people. The arts scene is no longer the lonely, competitive, balkanized landscape of my 1971 youth. Under the leadership of Terry LeMoncheck, arts in El Dorado County are a truly synergetic enterprise, cooperative and thriving, and available to all residents.

I understand that Arts and Culture El Dorado is requesting the same funding as past years while adding eight new programs. This is truly a bargain for the quality programs that El Dorado county offers to county residents. Again, I support Arts and Culture EL Dorado and hope that the Board can continue their funding so that the success and progress we have made in El Dorado County arts will continue.

Thank you all for your consideration,

Pete Miller