

public comments # 1
4/10/24

Wednesday 4/10/24 Agenda Item # 24-0679

Terry LeMoncheck <terry@artsandcultureeldorado.org>

Thu 4/4/2024 2:49 PM

To: BOS-Clerk of the Board <edc.cob@edcgov.us>

📎 1 attachments (2 MB)

letters of support_final.pdf;

To the Clerk of the Board:

Attached please find one document containing multiple letters pertinent to the Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, April 10 – the budget hearing.

These pertain to agenda item # 24-0679, and are in support of Arts and Culture El Dorado.

Please advise of any issues with this document.

Thank you,
Terry LeMoncheck (she/her)
Executive Director

Arts and Culture El Dorado
530-295-3496

www.ArtsAndCultureElDorado.org

Occupying the indigenous lands of the Nisenan and Miwok people

March 27, 2024

To the County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to urge the County Board of Supervisors to decide in favor of the full requested funding for Arts and Culture El Dorado. I am a resident of El Dorado County and I have a solo law practice in Cameron Park. For the past 18 years, I have taught dance classes multiple times a week in our community under my performer name, Vahana. I also direct a dance ensemble called the Jewels of the North and the youth group the Jewelettes, who have performed at local wineries, festivals, events, and the county fair for 16 years. I have taught and worked with young at-risk girls ages 7 to 18 who truly need dance and art in their lives to help boost their self-esteem. I believe art, dance, and culture help young people avoid the mental illness crisis we are seeing in our nation's youth. This is equally true for all my adult dance students who are trying to navigate the trials of life. Indeed, several of my dancers have actually also participated in art exhibits sponsored by Arts and Culture El Dorado.

Moreover, for the past 18 years, I have produced a charity benefit show for local people in need and non-profit causes in our community called the Casbah Lounge, Evening of Cultural Dance. It is a vital part of giving back to our community as 100% of everything donated goes to our beneficiaries. It is estimated that over the years, these small events have raised over \$50,000. Arts and Culture El Dorado advertises these events for us for free.

I know our county, and indeed the entire state, is facing budget concerns. Those budget cuts will affect arts and music in our public schools effectively leaving our youth without this important aspect of a healthy life. The youth (and adults) of El Dorado County deserve to have the benefits that Arts and Culture El Dorado can provide. This is a great use of our tax money and it requires you to approve the full requested funding for Arts and Culture El Dorado.

Thank you,

Valerie A. Baker

Valerie A. Baker

March 28, 2024

Dear Board of Supervisors,

As a longtime resident of Placerville, a merchant on Main Street, and a mother who is raising my family here, I was disappointed to hear that you are considering reducing funding for our vital community organization, Arts and Culture El Dorado.

Over the years, Arts and Culture has proven time and time again to be our community's strongest arts support system. I am especially grateful for the work they do with students and youth in programs like Poetry Out Loud and the Young Artist Awards. And it's not just young people they promote and encourage. They are also currently bringing our community a wide variety of programming as part of this year's Big Read, joining multiple generations in storytelling activities that help expand familial and community understanding. As a reader and a bookseller, I think this kind of programming is so powerful in keeping minds open and creating pathways of connection. My mom was able to record her story about her relationship with her own mother, my grandmother, just days before my grandmother passed away. It will forever be a meaningful memory, feeling honored and supported as she shared her story as part of the Big Read, an experience that brought new depth to her own growth and healing as a daughter and a woman.

This type of programming is vital for locals in a sometimes divided area, in bringing us all together to appreciate creativity and art through each of our unique voices. We can better appreciate each other's deep humanity and shared values.

Arts and Culture, of course, also operates Switchboard Gallery, where lively themes and diverse exhibitions show off artistic talents of our county, like "Bad Apples," the skateboarding exhibit that showed multimedia artwork from a "misfit culture." Shows like this are so important to bring in voices, stories, and forms of self-expression that might otherwise be overlooked.

I am consistently grateful for the work Arts and Culture does to promote expression and creativity and in turn, bring us together in human understanding. The importance of that role cannot be overstated. Please keep their funding fully intact and help our community thrive so that our kids can grow up happier and healthier in this ever-changing world.

Sincerely,

Heather Beatty Spring
Co-owner, The Bookery, Main Street, Placerville

From: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
To: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
Subject: Funding for the Arts
Date: Friday, March 29, 2024 1:30:56 PM

Dear Board of Supervisors ,

I am writing to you on behalf of my support for Arts & Culture El Dorado. I am an artist residing in district 3 of El Dorado County. As an artist that does all I can to give back to the community, I know first hand the importance of having an arts organization of this caliber in our small town.

Two of the programs I am most excited about are the youth and veterans art programs. These are both demographics that are underserved and both add so much to the recipients as well as all of us that get to share in the magic of what they create.

I have personally worked with Terry LeMoncheck on a future large scale art project. Her energy and expertise are unmatched. I feel we are so fortunate to have her here in our community, leading the charge on creating and upleveling our culture of arts here in El Dorado County.

I ask that you find a way to stay on track with the county funding for next year's budget, continuing to expand our arts and our culture is a necessity. In fact, I think we need to grow it!

Thank you so much for your consideration.
Best Regards,

Terrie Bennett
3919 Carson Rd.
Camino, Ca. 95709
916-367-3662

Sent from my iPhone

March 25, 2024

To the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors....

My name is Les Brown, and my wife, Alexis, and I are residents of the Serrano development in El Dorado County. I am a retired Supervising Deputy District Attorney for the County of Sacramento and my wife is a retired Financing Specialist for the State of California Department of Veterans Affairs.

I write in support of continued County funding for Arts and Culture El Dorado. I have substantial experience with the organization, having previously served many years on its Board of Directors, including several years as Chair of the Board of Directors. My wife and I continue to provide annual financial support to the organization.

I realize that the organization will by now have provided to the Board of Supervisors a list of the many El Dorado County cultural activities supported by Arts and Culture El Dorado. It is my wife's and my hope that the Board will recognize the importance of these many activities and provide some reasonable level of taxpayer support to assist the organization in continuing its culture enhancing work. I have many years of professional, volunteer experience working with Executive Director Terry LeMoncheck, as well as a personal friendship, and I can guarantee, based on observation, that Ms. LeMoncheck is a worthy steward of taxpayer funds and every dollar allotted the organization is put to good use furthering the organization's contribution to the arts and culture of El Dorado County.

Thank you for your consideration.

Les and Alexis Brown

From: [Colleen Bye](#)
To: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
Subject: Arts and Culture El Dorado
Date: Sunday, March 24, 2024 4:56:56 PM

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my strong support for maintaining full funding for Arts and Culture El Dorado in the upcoming budget. As a member of this vibrant community, I believe that investing in the arts is essential for fostering creativity, cultural enrichment, and community engagement.

Arts and Culture El Dorado plays a pivotal role in our county, enriching lives, fostering creativity, and promoting inclusivity. From supporting local artists to providing educational programs for our youth, the impact of your funding extends far beyond the cultural sector. **I have personally witnessed the profound transformative influence of the arts, and extensive data substantiates its invaluable significance for individuals of all backgrounds.**

Losing 30% of the operating and programmatic budget would undoubtedly have a devastating impact, resulting in a significant reduction in the scope of programs and services offered. As we celebrate the 40th Anniversary of Arts and Culture El Dorado this year, it is crucial to reaffirm our commitment to sustaining this invaluable resource.

I urge you to prioritize the preservation of arts funding in our community and allocate the necessary resources to support Arts and Culture El Dorado at the full amount. Together, we can ensure that the arts continue to thrive and enrich the lives of all residents in El Dorado County.

Please feel free to reach out if you have any questions or require further information. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Take Care,

Colleen Bye Teacher, John Muir Charter School

From: [Jack Carman](#)
To: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
Subject: letter to "sups"
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 10:26:03 AM

Dear Board of Supervisors:

I am writing in support of Arts and Culture El Dorado, asking that you continue their funding in the forthcoming budget.

I am currently facilitating the Veteran Voices Writing Workshop, made possible by a grant through the Arts Council. We meet once each week, where Veterans from various campaigns--predominantly Vietnam era--share stories and work on writing skills. They produce noteworthy pieces of creative fiction and non-fiction, published in an annual anthology. It is worth mentioning that at least once a week, one or more members of the group will say something to the effect of, "I don't know what I would do without these Monday night meetings..." In the context of this type of writing group, it is universally understood that the meetings do not stand as therapy, officially, but that the process is most certainly therapeutic. I also taught high school English for seventeen years at Golden Sierra in Garden Valley, and later at Independence in Diamond Springs. Poetry Out Loud comprised a large and valuable part of our curriculum each spring. This is the national poetry program which encourages students to master public speaking, build self-confidence, and learn about literary history and contemporary life. Arts and Culture El Dorado has been the integral player in making this program happen in El Dorado County schools. Again, I encourage you to make the right decision and include funding for Arts and Culture El Dorado in your 2024-25 budget.

Respectfully,
Jack Carman

Dear Supervisor, Turnboo,

My name is Dan Cattone and I am a resident in your District. I have lived in the El Dorado Hills area since 2006.

I have also been a long-term Board member of Arts and Culture El Dorado, once presiding as its chair.

I have been informed by our Executive Director, Terry LeMoncheck that our County funding has not been included in the County budget for the coming year.

As a long-term member and supporter of a non-profit such as Arts and Culture El Dorado, I find it disappointing and unacceptable that the County will not be supporting the excellent work that our organization has provided this County for nearly 40 years.

Mr. Turnboo. I voted for you in all elections and find this outcome inconsistent with the support that we have seen in the past from you and the County Supervisors overall.

Our organization has fought hard and long to establish on-going programs that impact all residents of El Dorado County. I am particularly passionate about Veterans Voices, The Young Artist awards and our Switchboard Gallery where we host a variety of unique exhibits for public viewing.

As a non-profit, we require predictability in our financial support to engage and sustain all the critical programs that we orchestrate and manage. Losing the County funding will seriously hamper our ability to do so.

To that end, I ask you to strongly support re-establishing our line item in the budget to insure we can sustain and grow our impact for the residents of El Dorado County.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support for this request.

Sincerely,

Dan Cattone

Board member, Arts and Culture El Dorado

dcattone@comcast.net

916-932-6241

From: Ann Chambers
To: Terry LeMoncheck
Subject: Letter of Support
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 8:21:30 PM

Dear Terry,

Thank you for your hard work on behalf of our community. This letter of support is a little late, but I hope you can use it.

Warm regards,
Ann Chambers

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my strong support for continued funding for arts and culture in El Dorado County. As a resident of this county for the past 12 years, I have witnessed firsthand the positive impact that the arts have had on our community.

One of the most important benefits of arts and culture funding is the support it provides for our veterans. The writers group for veterans, funded by the Arts Council, has been a lifeline for many veterans struggling with PTSD. The group provides a safe and supportive environment where veterans can express themselves creatively and connect with others who understand their experiences.

In addition to the benefits for veterans, arts and culture funding also supports our local economy, creates jobs, and enhances our quality of life. The arts are a critical part of our social infrastructure, and they add meaning and depth to our everyday living.

I urge you to continue to support the arts in El Dorado County. It is an investment that will pay dividends for years to come.

Sincerely,
Ann Chambers

From: [Arts and Culture El Dorado](#)
To: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
Subject: Clark
Date: Saturday, March 30, 2024 10:17:23 PM

Name: Robin
Email: robinlynne79@gmail.com
Message:

I have participated in local theater on stage, back stage and other roles. I've judged Poetry Out Loud and support the Arts and Culture events in all forms. I do ask that BOS and/or Placerville City Council continue to fund this fully. A community without the Arts will grow stagnant. Robin Clark

From: tdcump@gmail.com
To: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
Cc: "Kris Kiehne"
Subject: BOS Funding Support Letter
Date: Friday, March 29, 2024 12:39:58 PM

March 29, 2024

To: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

Re: Funding for Arts and Culture El Dorado FY 2024-2025

Dear El Dorado County Supervisors,

Please continue the County's longstanding funding for Arts and Culture El Dorado (ACED) in the 2024-2025 fiscal year. The requested amount, \$95,600, represents a zero increase over the last two budget years. At roughly 49 cents per capita, it is also 23% less than the statewide average of county arts funding.

ACED leverages this and other funding to provide an impressive lineup of programs and services that not only enrich County residents' lives, but attract visitors who boost the local economy. No matter who you are – schoolchild, parent, elder, veteran, reader, music lover, recreationalist, historian, gallery-goer – ACED offers something tailored to your interests. **And ACED offers it to everyone, free of charge.** I cannot think of another non-profit organization in the County that so successfully engages such a wide variety of audiences.

ACED's role as a catalyst and incubator for our local arts and culture scene is vital to sustaining our County's quality of life. It warrants the County's continued financial support, and that support will be returned to our community many times over in ways both tangible and intangible.

Please include ACED's funding request in your forthcoming budget.

Tom Cumpston
Placerville, CA

Terry LeMoncheck

From: Maureen <dionperry@att.net>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 2:29 PM
To: Terry LeMoncheck
Subject: Board of Supervisors - Arts and Culture Funding

Dear Board of Supervisors - I am writing you regarding the wonderful community work that Arts and Culture El Dorado do for our community.

Their programs touch so many lives: youth, veterans and adults.

They need your funding to continue their work in 2024-25.\

Please do not cut their budget. A community without art is a community without a heart!!!!

Thanks for listening

Maureen Dion-Perry
Camino, CA

March 25, 2024

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

Regarding: Art's & Culture El Dorado funding

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am urging your continuing support for Art's & Culture El Dorado at the same level as last year. Your support is essential in maintaining the rich programming that A&C provides for our county and the region. The organization has proven to be a great asset that makes El Dorado County a special place for us to live and work and for those visiting.

Having such an asset advocating and show casing both the art and culture of El Dorado County not only provides a valued experience for those living here but demonstrates why our communities are a good choice for those looking to experience the county or even relocate. Recently A&C put on a show that attracted people from throughout our region. It also was able to secure sponsorship for the show from a national organization. The show was a great success and certainly contributed to our economic well being drawing on participants locally, regionally and even nationally.

Securing funding at the same level as last year is money well spent and demonstrates the importance we place on our art and culture. It will provide a return on the investment many times over. Please continue your critical support for Art's & Culture El Dorado.

Respectfully,

Charles D Downs AIA Architect Emeritus

From: Terry LeMoncheck
To: Terry LeMoncheck
Subject: Letter of Support for the Gallery's Annual Funding
Date: Friday, March 29, 2024 12:49:09 PM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

Dear El Dorado County Board of Supervisors,

As an advocate for the arts and a member of our vibrant El Dorado County community, I wholeheartedly support the Switchboard Gallery's annual funding request from the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors. The arts play a pivotal role in shaping our community's identity, fostering creativity, and enhancing the quality of life for residents and visitors alike.

Here are several compelling reasons why the Board of Supervisors should decide in favor of providing full funding for Arts and Culture El Dorado:

1. **Cultural Enrichment:** The arts celebrate our heritage, connect generations, and provide a platform for diverse voices to be heard.
2. **Economic Impact:** Cultural events, galleries, and performances attract tourists, stimulate local businesses, and create jobs.
3. **Education and Youth Development:** By funding the Switchboard Gallery, the Board directly supports youth arts education, empowering the next generation of artists, musicians, and performers.
4. **Community Well-Being:** The arts promote mental health, social cohesion, and overall well-being. The arts bring people together, fostering a sense of belonging and pride.

In conclusion, I urge the Board of Supervisors to recognize the vital role that Arts and Culture plays in our community. Arts and culture in El Dorado County not only enriches our lives but also contributes to the county's long-term prosperity.

Let us continue to celebrate and support the arts, ensuring that El Dorado County remains a place where creativity thrives.

Thank you for your commitment to our community...

Sincerely,

Delia Echegaray (AKA: Daleela Morad)

*M.A. Counseling Psychology & California Credentialed Adult Ed Teacher
Elly Award Winning Performer & Author*

*[LinkedIn](#)
[Blog](#)*

<http://www.daleela.com>



Dear Supervisor Hidahl,

My name is Rob Ferriman and I have lived in El Dorado Hills since 2003. I have also been a long-term board member of Arts and Culture El Dorado and currently preside as Chair.

I have been informed by our Executive Director, Terry LeMoncheck that our County funding has not been included in the County budget for the coming year.

As a long-term member and supporter of a non-profit such as Arts and Culture El Dorado, I find it disappointing and unacceptable that the County will not be supporting the excellent work that our organization has provided this County for nearly 40 years.

Mr. Hidahl, I voted for you in all elections and find this outcome inconsistent with the support that we have seen in the past from you and the County Supervisors overall.

Arts and Culture El Dorado provides the critical infrastructure to support the numerous programs that make a significant impact to the people of our community. I feel one of the consistent fabrics to thriving communities of California is the arts. It adds a vibrancy for our residents and visitors. After all the success the organization has had and the impact it has made on our community, it would be a tragedy to put it all at risk.

As a non-profit, we require predictability in our financial support to engage and sustain all the critical programs that we orchestrate and manage. Losing the County funding will seriously hamper our ability to do so.

To that end, I ask you to strongly support re-establishing our line item in the budget to insure we can sustain and grow our impact for the residents of El Dorado County.

Thank you in advance for your consideration and support for this request.

Sincerely,

Rob Ferriman

Board Chair, Arts and Culture El Dorado

rjferriman@gmail.com

916-849-7939

From: [Heather Freer](#)
To: [Jordan Hyatt-Miller](#); [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
Subject: Letter in Support of Funding for Arts and Culture El Dorado
Date: Wednesday, April 3, 2024 11:17:05 PM

To Whom It May Concern (El Dorado County Board of Supervisors)

El Dorado County is a magical place. It draws an incredible number of visitors, but more importantly it is home to a truly astoundingly diverse community.

I am a twenty-six year resident of El Dorado County. I am a business owner (Whitewater Rafting), a high school teacher, mother to three children born and raised here. I grew up in Santa Fe, NM, a community world-renowned for its art and culture. I have lived in London and in New Zealand. I received my undergraduate degree from Northwestern University, completed graduate work at UCLA and UC Davis (writing), completed a Masters in Education from Brandan University. I am married to a Marine Corps veteran who is from Wisconsin and who fell in love with El Dorado County before we met. I was living in Los Angeles with an entirely different life when we met - I had a decade-long full-time career as a professional actor. We chose to live here, in El Dorado County, because it was beautiful, because of the rich, diverse community, and because it held all the promise of a community growing and embracing arts and culture. Due to my past, my heritage, and my career, I am keenly aware of the power of arts in lifting up a community and I knew, keenly, that I could not stay and thrive in a community that did not reflect this. El Dorado County is also a place strongly connected to its past. The past is not just made up of events like the Gold Rush, but of the people who made that history.

About fourteen years ago, I was invited to participate in the National Poetry Out Loud Competition as a poet in the schools. Arts and Culture El Dorado was the driving force behind this in our community. Indeed, it was this program that brought me into the schools and ignited my passion for teaching high school students. What this experience showed me was the power in the intersection of arts and education. For five years or so I worked with POL through Arts and Culture until I became a teacher (my POL passion and dedication continues). The impact of arts education on students is well-researched and astounding - as a teacher I can give you anecdotal information from every single day of my career, but the numbers alone tell the story: Students with an arts education are thirty percent more likely to pursue a professional career, are four times more likely to receive a bachelor's degree, four times more likely to be recognized for academic achievement. Their school engagement is significantly higher, and they hit all five Cs most critical to education and to social development: Critical Thinking, Creativity, Communication, Collaboration, and Character. What these statistics show us translate far beyond the classroom and into our communities: all people with access to art and culture in their communities are more creative, are collaborative, engage in their communities at a higher level.

In an time when population is declining, keeping - and growing El Dorado County as a place where art and culture are revered and supported ensures that our community will remain a place where people will want to continue to visit, to move, to raise their families. It is also a place where the past is respected and the stories of the past are told, are remembered, and are passed down. I have seen the transformative power of Veterans Voices and this is an especially powerful program to my husband. Through writing groups and workshops I have witnessed and experience the power of programs like Switchboard Connections.

Many of the children we bring up in El Dorado County may go away to school, to explore, to adventure, but they will also come back. I am in awe of the high school students in the news of late, coming back to film movies in our county, bringing us fame through their own fame as singers and as dancers, owning their identities as El Dorado County born and raised. The Young Artist Awards through Arts & Culture honor students graduating from high school, and we know the importance of these awards, and of making students feel recognized, seen, and valuable in their home county. This strengthens their ties to community, ensuring this continuation of generations tied here.

When my family comes to visit me (from Santa Fe, Seattle, Maine), a stop at the Arts and Culture gallery is always on the schedule. Art is vital to our sense of place and belonging.

I understand we are at a critical time financially and regarding population growth in our county and in our state. This is not ever a time to cut funding to arts and culture. To do so would be akin to cutting off water to a parched community. Cutting it to youth cuts off a lifeline to their future. According to Forbes Magazine in January of this year, 70% say creative thinking is the most in-demand skill. Access and exposure to arts is vital to the development of this skill. We need to be fostering the growth and longevity of the families already here and the desirability of our county to those looking for a place to build a strong foundation for their families - as we have.

I meant this to be a short letter - it clearly is not. Funding for Arts and Culture El Dorado is vital to the strength and growth of my beloved home, of the place where my own children were born and are being raised. Through your past support you have impacted my life, my children's lives, my students lives, my community as a whole. You have honored the past and you shine a light on the beauty of our county through art and through revealing the voices of your community members. Please, please continue to do so.

Respectfully,

Heather Brooks Freer
(she/her/hers)
Drama, Advanced Drama
Advanced Theatre Tech
English, Poetry Out Loud
VAPA Department Chair
Union Mine High School
hfreer@eduhd.k12.ca.us
530-621-4003 x4711

Inline image

From: [David Girard](#)
To: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
Date: Saturday, March 30, 2024 3:42:22 PM

Dear Board of Supervisors

As a past president of El Dorado Arts and Culture, El Dorado County Winery owner for some thirty years and having spent my life in education in several capacities I am writing to ask that you continue to provide continued funding to El Dorado Arts and Culture.

El Dorado Arts and Culture's importance to our County cannot be overstated. It aids our veterans, fulfills a critical educational need for our children and acts to help bind us together as a community.

Your consideration and good will is very much appreciated.

Sincerely,

David Girard

From: [Sue Goodrich](#)
To: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
Subject: Please continue funding for El Dorado's Arts & Culture.
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 11:53:56 AM

To All That This Concerns (everyone);

Please continue funding for El Dorado's Arts & Culture. Arts & Culture are vital to our tourist industry. It's what makes a trip so special. We have many very talented Artists here & downtown Placerville is often a stop for people traveling to Tahoe & back. The money spent in this town fills an important part of our economy.

Thank You,

Sue Goodrich
Shingle Springs, CA
530.363.4030

From: [Taylor Graham](#)
To: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
Subject: Funding for the Arts
Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 7:06:44 PM

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Arts and culture expand our view of the world and our place in it.
They help bring community together.

Arts are an integral part of life, sparking pleasure, thought, and solace. They encourage children's imaginations, helping them discover and give voice to the world and themselves. Arts – music, the visual arts, dance, theater, poetry and other writing – provide new ways of seeing, hearing, moving, understanding.

What would a walk down Main Street be without art galleries and the Switchboard Gallery with its mix of art, local culture, and critical local issues like wildfire?

I'm a poet. Since I moved to El Dorado County in 1984, I've seen a surge in poetry readings and workshops, a growing community of poets and writers, and participation in community events like Arts in Nature Fest.

The arts are imagination embodied; they keep our what-if's alive. The 9/11 Commission, in its summary of the 2001 terrorist attacks on our country, concluded "The most important failure was one of imagination."

There's so much talent and inspiration in this community, let's help it flourish.

I urge you to keep Arts and Culture's funding in the budget this year at the full amount.

From: laralg@aol.com
To: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
Subject: email to the El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 8:11:43 PM

March 28, 2024

Regarding: Funding Arts & Culture El Dorado

To the Eldorado County Board of Supervisors

Let us give support for more arts in our community and not less. The arts connect people with each other and the community, giving deeper meaning to local histories, geographies, and memories, reminding us of what we all have in common and instilling a larger sense of identity. It's all about our relationships with one another and taking pride in where we live. The arts empower each of us, thereby empowering our community.

Respectfully,

Lara Gularte
El Dorado County Poet Laureate Emeritus 2021-2023

From: [Terry LeMoncheck](mailto:Terry.LeMoncheck)
To: [Terry LeMoncheck](mailto:Terry.LeMoncheck)
Subject: FW: Letters of Support, Please- Removing ACED funding is on BOS agenda
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 1:01:15 PM

From: Robin Gunning <robin.wicked@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 9:43 PM
To: Melinda Velasco <velamar333@gmail.com>; Terry LeMoncheck <terry@artsandcultureeldorado.org>
Subject: Re: Letters of Support, Please- Removing ACED funding is on BOS agenda

Dear El Dorado County Board of Supervisors,

I am writing on behalf of El Dorado Arts and Culture. It has come to my attention that funding for this program has been cut for next year, which is disgraceful. Engagement in the arts in our community fosters tolerance, diversity, compassion and empathy. It boosts neighborly morale when seeing beautiful works of art on display, as well as encouraging community members to actively participate in culturally diverse events. A thriving arts center promotes social well-being, a sense of purpose in community, along with a building prosperity throughout downtown Placerville.

The biggest benefit is promoting wellbeing through arts and culture. Since the pandemic there are more cases of depression, mental health crises, and a disconnect from engaging in society from our youth to our elderly; did you know that one in four adults suffers from a mental health condition (depression, anxiety disorders, neuro-development disorders, eating disorders, etc)? The role of arts and culture encourages positive self expression and confidence, it gives people the opportunity to connect. "A new survey from APA finds about half (46%) of Americans use creative activities to relieve stress or anxiety, such as playing the piano, crocheting a blanket, dancing with friends or solving crossword puzzles. Americans who rate their mental health as very good or excellent tend to engage in creative activities more frequently than those who rate their mental health as fair or poor." (Psychiatry.org)

"Art is as natural as sunshine and as vital as nourishment." - MaryAnn F. Kohl

We need to continue to nourish our community. Arts and Culture El Dorado makes people feel better. It inspires, sparks imagination, gets people excited and interested in events, promotes positive social behavior, builds connections and makes the town of Placerville more beautiful than it already is. It would be such a shame to lose something that brings such positivity to the folks that live here.

Best,

Robin Gunning

Education Specialist II

Sacramento City Unified School District

March 30, 2024

Dear Board of Supervisors:

Re: Increasing the budget for Arts & Culture by understanding the value of the Arts to El Dorado County.

As you adopt a new budget for the coming fiscal year, I strongly urge you to INCREASE and not decrease the funds available to Arts & Culture. The programs arising out of this organization are as essential to the lives of El Dorado County citizens as shelter, food and water, and good health.

A healthy community requires exposure to all aspects of cultures and art, including developing talents, introducing career opportunities, improving mental well-being, and enhancing audience appreciation.

As a resident of El Dorado County for over 50 years and the owner of a business here, I recognize the wealth of talented artists in EDC. We need to continue to tap into the inventiveness and talents of our local citizens, and especially the youth.

The events and opportunities presented by Arts & Culture have greatly expanded under the excellent leadership of Terry LeMoncheck. The number of individuals and families whose lives have been enhanced and positively affected has grown exponentially. Arts & Culture has a positive economic impact in El Dorado County by creating more programs locally and reducing the need to travel to larger cities for our culture.

An increase in the budget for Arts and Culture will not only allow more needed programs, but it also increases the possibility for private donors to add more to our community.

Karen B. Guthrie

Cameron Park

From: [cynthia hayes](#)
To: [Terry LeMoncheck](#); [ROBERT & Margie READ](#)
Subject: Re: Funding for Arts and Culture - for Terry LeMonchek
Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 8:07:32 AM

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I'm forwarding this letter to you from Ms. Lopez Read in support of maintaining the funding for El Dorado Arts and Culture. I totally agree with Ms. Lopez Read and encourage you to continue the funding for this important social program.

Thank you,

Cynthia Hayes
El Dorado County resident since 1977

Dear Board of Supervisors-

I am writing this message to encourage you to please keep the funding for El Dorado Arts and Culture at the level that it was during the current fiscal year. I have heard you are considering cutting it, and I find that disturbing.

A small investment in the arts can produce wonders for society - especially when times are difficult. It is said that participation in the arts will contribute to community cohesion, reduce social exclusion and isolation, and/or make communities feel safer and stronger.

I have observed that effect this very year in our County, in large part due to small expenditures by the El Dorado Arts and Culture. The events they have made possible included art exhibitions that are diverse in concept, captivating in presentation, and inclusive in participation. This has resulted in a happier, healthier society which is so, so important for us now.

Please do more. Not less.

Sincerely,

Margie Lopez Read

Resident of Placerville since 1981

On Sunday, March 24, 2024 at 12:57:17 PM PDT, ROBERT & Margie READ <bread1@comcast.net> wrote:

Dear Board of Supervisors-

I am writing this message to encourage you to please keep the funding for El Dorado Arts and Culture at the level that it was during the current fiscal year. I have heard you are considering cutting it, and I find that disturbing.

A small investment in the arts can produce wonders for society - especially when times are difficult. It is said that participation in the arts will contribute to community cohesion, reduce social exclusion and isolation, and/or make communities feel safer and stronger.

I have observed that effect this very year in our County, in large part due to small expenditures by the El Dorado Arts and Culture. The events they have made possible included art exhibitions that are diverse in concept, captivating in presentation, and inclusive in participation. This has resulted in a happier, healthier society which is so, so important for us now.

Please do more. Not less.

Sincerely;

Margie Lopez Read

Resident of Placerville since 1981

From: [Melinda Velasco](#)
To: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
Subject: Fwd: Letters of Support, Please- Removing ACED funding is on BOS agenda
Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 11:28:16 AM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Gale Hesselgesser** <galerespect@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Mar 26, 2024 at 10:54 AM
Subject: Re: Letters of Support, Please- Removing ACED funding is on BOS agenda
To: Melinda Velasco <velamar333@gmail.com>

March 25, 2024

Dear El Dorado County Board of Supervisors,

I understand you are considering denying funding to Arts and Culture El Dorado for next year. I have been so inspired by all the events that have been offered through this group: Poetry, Paintings, Photography, Dance, Music, Cultural customs and handiwork. We have all been so proud of how much our little town has to offer! It is something that really united all generations: mine (I am 82), my children's (who are in their 50's), and my grandchildren's...we all came together around some (or most!) of the Arts and Culture events. A good friend just published a book on river rafting, inspired, in part, by all the art activity in the last year.

I do hope you can find another way to balance your budget without having to cut your support for a project that deeply and joyfully brought our communities together in surprising and delightful ways.

Respectfully submitted,

Gale Hesselgesser

Resident for 43 years

From: [Charlotte Higgins](#)
To: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
Subject: County Funding for ACED
Date: Thursday, April 4, 2024 9:41:53 AM

Dear Board of Supervisors:

I understand you are proposing to cut funding for Arts and Culture El Dorado. This would have a huge impact on ACED'S programs and I consider it a huge mistake.

ACED is one of the liveliest and most involved Arts Councils I have ever come across. They reach out to young people, veterans, our agricultural community, visual and performing arts, to name a few. Arts are an integral part of any community and have a positive economic impact on our retail stores and restaurants as well.

I am an almost 30-year resident of El Dorado County and a working writer. As the new playwright-in-residence for The Stage at Burke Junction in Cameron Park, i have personally benefitted from ACED's support of the theater and our programs there. We have been able to expand our audiences here and draw new audiences from Sacramento and even as far as the Bay Area. With ACED's support we will also be sponsoring dramatic writing workshops, a place for creatives in our community to develop work, more theatrical productions, and a workshop for at-risk youth in our community. The arts are very much alive in El Dorado County and we need your continued support.

Thank you.

Charlotte Higgins
Playwright-in-Residence
The Stage at Burke Junction
1007 Oak Crest Court
Placerville, CA 95667

From: [Arts and Culture El Dorado](#)
To: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
Subject: County budget
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2024 4:11:13 PM

Name: Judy johnson
Email: jujojo4343@gmail.com

Message:

Dera County supervisors,

I urge you to keep full funding in the county budget for "Arts and Culture". The arts are SO important for community, especially now that school arts have been cut. We all need it.

Sincerely

Judy johnson, placerville

From: [Arts and Culture El Dorado](#)
To: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
Subject: Support for the ARTS in El Dorado County
Date: Saturday, March 30, 2024 11:00:47 AM

Name: Victoria Kennedy
Email: victoriakennedy50@gmail.com

Message:

Please continue financial support for Arts and Culture El Dorado.

Art gives meaning to our lives and helps us understand our world. Art opens our minds to new ideas and experiences.

To support the Arts is a sign of intellectual and emotional health and well being.

Art helps cultures unite and communicate in a unique way. We all experience art, music, dance, and theatre in many different ways. Our daily lives are blessed and inspired.

As a former Art teacher I have seen the importance of the creative process for all ages. Our society and our village is happier, stronger, healthier, wiser, and more loving when we promote the Arts for all.

Thank you,
Victoria Kennedy

From: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
To: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
Subject: Arts and Culture El Dorado Funding
Date: Friday, March 29, 2024 12:38:10 PM

March 29, 2024

To: El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

Re: Funding for Arts and Culture El Dorado FY 2024-2025

Dear El Dorado County Supervisors,

I am writing to you to request that you maintain the funding for Arts and Culture El Dorado in the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Arts and Culture El Dorado is requesting the same level of funding granted by El Dorado County last year. This level is roughly equal to approximately \$0.50 per person in the county.

In the past year, our community has greatly benefited from the programs sponsored by Arts and Culture El Dorado including: writing workshops for veterans (Veteran's Voices), giving them a means and a forum to express and share their experiences and moving insights; displays of art and photography at the Switchboard Gallery in Placerville; and of course the very popular Sugar Skull Artwalk event which brought together so many members of our community. These programs, which are free to the public, allow the community to learn about and celebrate culture, and to be inspired to pursue our own interests and adventures. Opportunities like this help form the base of a strong community.

More than ever, we need authentic interactions and entertainment to provide an alternative to the small screen of a smartphone, which can absorb so much of our attention.

Along with many other residents of our community, I regularly donate to this nonprofit. The funds that Arts and Culture El Dorado receives are used to pay for programs directly and, importantly, are used to match and leverage grant funding to continue programs and develop new ones. The funding received from the County is essential to the organization.

Thank you for giving this request your serious consideration.

Kris Kiehne

Placerville, CA

From: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
To: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
Subject: Letters of Support, Please- Removing ACED funding is on BOS agenda
Date: Friday, March 29, 2024 12:54:17 PM

Dear Honorable Board of Supervisors,

Thank you for taking the time to read and listen to my letter. I'm writing to you with regard to the funding for the Arts and Culture programs.

As a teacher in El Dorado County, my students, at Oak Ridge High School, have had the opportunity to participate in the various programs, art exhibitions and cultural events in our community.

The arts and culture funding not only has provided my students with the ability to display their work, but the pride that comes with being a part of events that celebrate the arts. These cultural events have also provided my students with a sense of belonging and an awareness that downtown Placerville is a city with a safe and friendly community. I had students, that participated in the Sugar Skull Walk and gallery showing, who not only had never been to Placerville, but didn't realize it was only 10 minutes away.

These arts and cultural programs are what will help continue to grow Placerville as a place that is a welcoming, warm, and a charming destination that appreciates arts and culture.

Sincerely ,

Michelle Sage Kite, M.Ed.

Art Instructor

Oak Ridge High School

mkite@eduhd.k12.ca.us

Letter of Support

March 28, 2024

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

330 Fair Lane, Building A
Placerville, CA 95667

Dear Supervisors,

I have been a resident of El Dorado County for 12 years. Throughout these last 12 years, I have participated in many events created by Arts and Culture El Dorado. From gallery exhibits that highlight local artists, dance workshops with Arts Incubator groups, information sessions about public art, and exciting events that uplift partnerships with area tribes, I have witnessed the myriad ways that Arts and Culture El Dorado have positively impacted the community.

Throughout my experiences with this organization, I can emphatically state that Arts and Culture El Dorado does what no other organization in this county has yet to do: they can bridge divides and bring people of all ages, backgrounds, and cultures together. An organization that can bring people together—rather than create further division—is essential to the health and well-being of this small and mighty community.

For the past two years, I have been astounded by the growing programmatic offerings of Arts and Culture El Dorado. These offerings bring a vibrance to Main Street, Placerville in a way that I've never experienced. In addition, more local artists, writers, poets, and musicians than ever before have a true community hub that supports their meaningful contributions and connects more people to their artistic offerings. This would not be possible without the unwavering support that Arts and Culture El Dorado has shown for the county's wide variety of artists.

As a devoted member of this community and a grateful patron of Arts and Culture El Dorado, I urge El Dorado County's Board of Supervisors to continue funding this important organization. Your support ensures that Arts and Culture El Dorado can continue to bridge divides and provide accessible arts education and experiences to more patrons than ever before.

Sincerely,



Ali LaVanway
El Dorado County Resident

From: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
To: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
Subject: "Arts & Culture El Dorado"
Date: Friday, March 29, 2024 12:50:16 PM

Arts & Culture El Dorado

Dear Board of Supervisors, please keep Arts and Culture El Dorado's funding in the budget this year at the full amount. My experiences with the arts council, El Dorado Arts and Culture, also a local partner the California Arts Council, go back many years and continue. I moved to ED county in 1971 and taught from '80 in the city and county schools for my 30 year teaching career. The arts council supported my personal poetry and photography journey with exhibits and the community's arts. And my teaching experiences. The first year they sponsored Poetry Out Loud I coached local high school students and every year since including this past year. I am a poet and photographer and they have sponsored and hosted my exhibits. And Poetry in the community. I owe my years of artistic success and growth to their sponsorship and support, as do so many local artists. We have all benefited from the support and services provided by the Arts Council. Thank you, Irene Lipshin

From: [Kathi Lishman](#)
To: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
Subject: Funding for Arts and Culture El Dorado
Date: Thursday, April 4, 2024 12:06:20 AM

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to encourage you to continue to fund Arts and Culture El Dorado in 2024-25 at the same level as in 2023-24. When we talk about The Arts, we are talking about art, music, poetry, literature, photography, theater, dance, sculpture, textiles, film, architecture.

Arts and Culture is a benefit to all 5 of the Supervisorial Districts in El Dorado County. To residents of all ages, as well as visitors and tourists. Arts and Culture supports and promotes a great variety of arts activities and programs all over the county, while also creating many shows, exhibits and cultural activities of their own.

The Arts are such a part of our everyday lives. Pablo Picasso once said, "Art washes away from the soul the dust of everyday life."

Please don't take Arts and Culture for granted by cutting their funding. Our communities need them.
Thank you.

Respectfully,
Kathi Lishman

From: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
To: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
Subject: Letter of support, Arts and Culture
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 12:08:54 PM

March 31, 2024

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Please keep Arts and Culture's Funding at the Full Amount in this year's Budget. Art is a vital building block to the healthy development of children, families and communities and its continued funding by the Board of Supervisors of El Dorado County is fundamental to supporting positive economic growth in our region.

As a new partner in Arts and Culture El Dorado's Arts Incubator, Red Paint Collective supports wellness in El Dorado County's Native American Community and the public, and any cut in Arts and Culture would be a detriment to the health of our youth and families. Our project, in partnership with other programs at Arts and Culture El Dorado, attract, engage and build community, inspire youth and adult artists, and positively impact our local economy, tourism, and the quality of life of the residents of El Dorado County.

Art in Native American Culture serves as a conductor moving our people and our culture forward while bridging creativity, expression and the force of our traditions, values and customs. Our Project embodies artistic transmission of our culture in our Native Community promoting the health and well being of our people, increasing resilience, providing self esteem to our youth and families, and improving the lives of Native youth and adults. We educate the public on Native Heritage and Cultural Arts, increasing the cultural competency of local residents, and removing barriers of understanding to prevent divisions and help solve problems in order to be more effective in reaching common Community and County wide goals.

Our recent participation in the Arts Incubator partner's Sugar Skull Art Walk Community Ofrenda project and cultural event November 2, 2023, allowed the Native and Latino Communities to use our Cultural Arts as a bridge between the arts community and the public on Main Street and the youth in El Dorado County Schools.

Please do not cut Arts and Culture from your budget. It will be harmful to the health of our youth, our community and our economy if you cut the funding that supports Arts and Culture in El Dorado County.

With Gratitude,

--

Luli Velasco
Chiricahua Apache, Tohono O'odham
Executive Director
Red Paint Collective
(530) 409-9951



From: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
To: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
Subject: Funding for the Arts
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 12:59:59 PM

March 27, 2024

Dear Board of Supervisors:

I've recently heard that El Dorado County is planning to eliminate funding for Arts and Culture El Dorado from next year's budget.

Since moving to El Dorado County in 1994, I've been aware of the existence of Arts and Culture El Dorado (formerly El Dorado Arts Council). With pleasure, I've watched the organization grow and expand over the decades. I've attended many arts events and exhibitions that the organization has developed, sponsored, or contributed to: Art in the Orchard, ArtWalk, Coloma Blues Live, Poetry Out Loud, Veterans' Voices, Poempalooza, the Big Read, Sending It, The Beautiful Blue, Barbaric Yawp, Poet Laureate readings, to name just a few.

All of these arts activities have enriched and added joy to the lives of not only El Dorado County residents but also the many visitors to our county. Participating in the arts, whether as a creator or as an audience member, puts us in touch with our deeper selves, allowing our hearts to expand. The arts uplift us. Experiencing and sharing the beauty, wildness, and electricity of a play, a master pianist, or a brilliant painting connects us to community in a profound way.

And of course, the arts are an economic engine for our county. People open their pocketbooks when going to concerts, attending plays, and stepping into galleries.

Eliminating funding for Arts and Culture El Dorado puts our community and county at risk of becoming an arts desert. Cutting ACED from the budget would do real harm. Please do El Dorado County residents and visitors a kindness and continue to fully fund Arts and Culture El Dorado.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best regards,

Moira Magneson
writer | editor | educator

Dear Board of Supervisors

I was shocked and dismayed to hear the proposal to cut funding to Arts and Culture El Dorado.

I have voted to support my current Supervisor because I came to understand that they represent the best interests of the constituents in their districts. Art is indisputably in the best interest of any city or county. Not everyone will go to see art but everyone benefits from having a thriving well funded art and culture program in it's city and county.

* Art attracts visitors to our county who spend time and money here. For example, the last show on Rock Climbing in our county brought 200 people to the opening night alone, many of us spent the night in town eating and drinking before and after.

* Art attracts a demographic of people (especially young families) to visit and consider moving to our county. This is a demographic who are largely educated, with solid financial resources and children who need to be schooled (school enrollment is declining as you know)

* Art makes residents of our county happy. It cheers people up in a way that a new refurbished strip mall, or a new sandwich shop chain can never do.

* Art helps us to reflect on our own lives and our community. It is a way people of diverse backgrounds bond and bridge the cultural and demographic differences.

* Art attracts positive attention to a county and draws potential investors that a county is growing and thriving, not stagnating.

* Art makes me happy and improves my quality of life. After 30+ years in this county and raising a family here, that matters to me. I would not consider voting for any public servant who cuts funding to the Arts and Culture El Dorado.

Thank you for your time

Aidan C. Maguire

From: Arts and Culture El Dorado
To: Terry LeMoncheck
Subject: Keep the Arts and Culture Funding
Date: Sunday, March 24, 2024 1:31:05 PM

Name: Steve March

Email: coachmarch@comcast.net

Message:

Dear Board of Supervisors' or To Whom It May Concern

Please keep the arts and culture's funding in the budget this year at the full amount. I have been active in the Poetry at @ 2 group in Georgetown and it has been a tremendous opportunity for people of El Dorado County in not just in writing, expressing our thoughts through Poetry, but also to be able to participate in the visual arts. Learning more about the indigenous culture that exist in our county helps bring our county together. The arts and culture represent the soul of El Dorado County and helps to make our county to be more inclusive.

Thank you for listening. We need this. Steve March

March 23, 2024

Dear El Dorado County Board of Supervisors:

It has come to my attention that funding for Arts and Culture El Dorado (ACED) has been cut from next year's budget. This would be very unfortunate as Arts and Culture El Dorado is an organization that provides opportunities for artists and artist groups that might otherwise not have access to a gallery or artistic environment. This funding cut will reach deep into our local community by affecting programs and opportunities regularly provided by ACED.

As Director of Foothill Indian Education Alliance, The Center Street Gallery and the Native American Center for Arts and Culture, I have had the opportunity to work closely with Arts and Culture El Dorado on a number of important projects, most recently the very successful Sugar Skull Art Walk. Our organizations work very well together because there are many similarities in our missions and our goals.

Beside gallery access, ACED provides space for art and culture classes as well as meeting spaces for a number of local community organizations.

There is so much more I could say about Arts and Culture El Dorado's importance to our community, but I will close by asking that you please reinstate funding in next year's budget in the full amount for Arts and Culture El Dorado. Reinstating this funding will help Arts and Culture El Dorado continue their efforts to build and support a thriving local arts community.

Sincerely,

James Marquez

Recently Retired Director (30 years)
Foothill Indian Education Alliance, Inc.
Center Street Gallery
Native American Center for Arts and Culture

From: [Arts and Culture El Dorado](#)
To: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
Subject: Saving County Funding for the El Dorado Arts and Culture
Date: Sunday, March 24, 2024 3:03:27 PM

Name: Stephen Meadows
Email: sandkmeadows@yahoo.com
Message:
Dear Board of Supervisors,

As the current Poet Laureate of El Dorado County, I urge you to please retain funding for the Arts and Culture portion of the County Budget.

Poetry and literature are so powerful and empowering and to eliminate public access to this wonderful art form would be devastating at the critical time.

Respectfully Yours,

Stephen Meadows
El Dorado County Poet Laureate 2023-2025

From: Terry LeMoncheck
To: Terry LeMoncheck
Subject: RE: Letters of Support, Please- Removing ACED funding is on BOS agenda
Date: Tuesday, March 26, 2024 2:11:15 PM

From: Melinda Velasco <velamar333@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 7:28 PM
To: Terry LeMoncheck <terry@artsandcultureeldorado.org>
Subject: Re: Letters of Support, Please- Removing ACED funding is on BOS agenda

March 25, 2024

Dear El Dorado County Board of Supervisors,

I am dismayed to hear that removal of County funding for Arts and Culture El Dorado (ACED) is being considered by the Board of Supervisors in early April. Cutting funding for ACED is the wrong move for our county.

ACED is the only organization in El Dorado County that offers community space for art displays, gatherings and workshops, an arts incubator program for new organizations, and support for a variety of unique cultural events. Among numerous other projects, the ACED incubator program supports the Placerville Friends of Tibet (and the annual visit of Tibetan monks and sand paintings), Studio 81 (the El Dorado High School Theater program), and the Sugar Skull Art Walk (a collaborative community education and art program connected to Days of the Dead).

As Co-Director of the Sugar Skull Art Walk (SSAW) I would like to share that over the last several years ACED has been instrumental in the success of our project. In 2023 ACED networked with local artists and the California Arts Council to facilitate grant applications that ultimately resulted in *five local art projects being funded*. **This would not have happened without the leadership and support of ACED.** The Sugar Skull Art Walk project was one of the five projects that was awarded a California Creative Corps grant.

The SSAW project this year was enormously successful. I was pleased to see Placerville and El Dorado County positively represented through media coverage of the Sugar Skull Art Walk project:

- Good Day Sacramento <https://www.cbsnews.com/gooddaysacramento/video/sugar-skull-walk-placerville/>
- Sacramento Bee <https://www.sacbee.com/news/local/article280832865.html>
<https://www.aol.com/d-los-muertos-placerville-mexican-123000466.html>
- Mountain Democrat https://www.mtdemocrat.com/prospecting-ofrendas-popping-up-on-main-street/article_ae1d10d6-6e99-11ee-a677-9fc18ed1ae32.html

This year the Switchboard Gallery was one of two galleries that showcased “ofrendas” (art displays to honor deceased family members and loved ones) for the community. Switchboard hosted over 220 3rd and 4th grade students from Placerville Union and Camino Unified School Districts on field trips to the ofrendas exhibit. ACED also provided space for Day of the Dead crafts workshops for visiting school groups and community members.

ACED and Switchboard fill a critical need as a community center in a region that does not have one. By prioritizing ACED through county funding over the last years, the Board of Supervisors has chosen to prioritize the enrichment and well-being of its residents. Arts provide an essential avenue for connection and positive mental health in communities. Where arts and culture thrive, people thrive.

Please continue to support Arts and Culture El Dorado.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Melinda Velasco

Founder and Co-Director of the Sugar Skull Art Walk

Arthur Molho
311 Diana St.
Placerville, CA 95667

Board of Supervisors
El Dorado County
Government Center
Placerville, CA 95667

RE: Arts & Culture El Dorado

Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing in support of the funding request for Arts & Culture El Dorado for the coming year. As a long time resident of our County, I am well aware of the impact that arts and cultural programming makes upon our community. The vibrant arts programming and resources which Arts & Culture El Dorado has so effectively promoted, have greatly enhanced the attraction of visitors to Placerville and many areas of the County. The variety of the artistic productions and gallery displays supported through Arts and Culture El Dorado encourages the growth and engagement of artists of a wide variety.

Please, approve the full funding requested for Arts & Culture El Dorado, an investment which returns many times the expenditure in both the spending of visitors and the enhancement of our community!

Sincerely,

Arthur Molho



City of Placerville
Administration Department
3101 Center Street
Placerville, CA 95667
530.642.5200

March 25, 2024

El Dorado County Board of Supervisors
330 Fair Lane, Building A
Placerville, CA 95667

RE: Support for funding for the Arts and Culture El Dorado

Chair Thomas and Members of the Board:

I am reaching out to offer the City's support for funding for Arts and Culture El Dorado to help them achieve their mission to promote, connect, and empower arts and culture throughout the county. We feel that a successful arts program is key to the success of our City and as such have supported Arts and Culture El Dorado.

Over the past 5 years we have worked closely with Arts and Culture to establish the Arts in Placerville and as the County seat, in the County. We have assisted by providing their current office and gallery, Switchboard Gallery. This has enabled them to provide Art within the City to residents and visitors, expanding opportunities for both.

In addition to this facility, we are currently in the process of jointly renovating Historic City Hall. This project will further establish a venue for Arts and Culture in the City and County. Over the past year we have worked with Arts and Culture on a Public Art Master Plan for the City and we are preparing to adopt that plan in the next month. Finally, we are working on a new project with Arts and Culture to establish Historical Markers on Main Street to further educate and encourage visitors to our downtown. These will also encourage visitors to El Dorado County.

We encourage you to continue funding Arts and Culture El Dorado as you have in the past.

Respectfully,

M. Cleve Morris, City Manager

cc. Terry LeMoncheck, Executive Director, Arts and Culture El Dorado

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in support of Arts and Culture El Dorado and in opposition to El Dorado County's threat to cease funding to the aforementioned organization. The arts council has not only deeply impacted my life, but I know for a fact it has impacted others in our community, as evidenced by my experience conducting interviews for The Big Read project.

This project has allowed me to act as a vessel for the stories of folks within our community. I am incredibly grateful for the opportunity (created by Arts and Culture El Dorado) to edit, produce, write music for, and share these stories in an upcoming exhibition. This project is not only allowing me to express myself as an interviewer, storyteller, audio producer, and musician, but is also allowing members of our community to bare their hearts and be generous with their honesty and vulnerability. Folks have shared with me some of the most challenging experiences in their lives in regards to caretaking for loved ones who have been sick, and, in some cases, have died; this has induced a culture of healing, truthfulness, and connection within our community - something I argue it needs more of.

Arts and Culture El Dorado is a fundamental component of our community as it fosters creativity, encourages collaboration, and champions the growth of artists who live in this rural area and who have limited opportunities to showcase their work, including myself.

With great power comes great responsibility, and if the County has the power to continue to function as a source of funding for Arts and Culture El Dorado, then they must meet that responsibility and do so for the health, harmony, enjoyment, and cultural expression of our local community. I firmly believe that cutting funding from Arts and Culture El Dorado would be a disgrace and a decision that would have palpably negative effects. We need more, not less, of the programs that Arts and Culture El Dorado creates for the sake of every single person within our community, whether it affects them directly or indirectly.

With this letter I ask that the County retract their consideration to cut funding from Arts and Culture El Dorado immediately.

Sincerely,

Mariah Padilla, Resident of El Dorado County and Artist



From: [ROBERT & Margie READ](#)
To: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
Cc: [ROBERT & Margie READ](#)
Subject: Funding for Arts and Culture - for Terry LeMonchek
Date: Sunday, March 24, 2024 12:57:22 PM
Importance: High

Dear Board of Supervisors-

I am writing this message to encourage you to please keep the funding for El Dorado Arts and Culture at the level that it was during the current fiscal year. I have heard you are considering cutting it, and I find that disturbing.

A small investment in the arts can produce wonders for society - especially when times are difficult. It is said that participation in the arts will contribute to community cohesion, reduce social exclusion and isolation, and/or make communities feel safer and stronger.

I have observed that effect this very year in our County, in large part due to small expenditures by the El Dorado Arts and Culture. The events they have made possible included art exhibitions that are diverse in concept, captivating in presentation, and inclusive in participation. This has resulted in a happier, healthier society which is so, so important for us now.

Please do more. Not less.

Sincerely;

Margie Lopez Read

Resident of Placerville since 1981

Terry LeMoncheck

From: Mike Roberts <miker@savethegraveseldorado.org>
Sent: Monday, March 25, 2024 5:05 PM
To: Terry LeMoncheck
Cc: Michele Martin
Subject: Re: Urgent -- need a letter of support

Dear County Supervisors,

Art is important. The work Arts and Culture El Dorado is doing spills over directly into our history and the spectacular scenery this county is known for. They celebrate our heritage, help us understand the threats of fire and the importance of our essential waterways.

I beseech you not to cut support for Arts and Culture El Dorado.

Save the Graves started as an incubator project of Arts and Culture. With their support we were able to test our concept... that a theatrical production held in a 150-year-old cemetery might be the key to raising public awareness about the importance of our historic cemeteries, and also raise funds to restore them.

Without A&CED, I never have tested that water.

I'm currently working with Terry LeMoncheck on ways to bring art into our cemeteries; to use murals to tell our history. We're actually painting the mausoleums in Placerville Union Cemetery this summer in anticipation of the first mural project as soon as 2025. Terry is looking for grants.

In the course of those meetings I shared a struggle we were having with the notoriously unresponsive State Attorney General's Office. A filing error on our part froze our non-profit in "delinquent" status, leaving us unable to apply for grants, do any fundraising or even purchase supplies for headstone repair. Week after week, the Attorney General's office was unresponsive to our calls and emails.

Terry recalled having a similar problem in the past. She suggested I go down there unannounced and ask to speak with someone. Of course I'd thought of that, and even done some research... all of which pointed to the journey being a waste of a half-tank of gas and an afternoon.

"It worked for me," she said. "The people who rant online are the ones that failed."

The following afternoon I appeared before the security guard on J Street, hat in hand, with low expectations. I asked to talk to someone about a delinquent non-profit. An hour later Save the Graves was free and clear.

This may seem like a small thing, but it was HUGE for us, and indicative of one type of very direct support Arts and Culture has provided me personally.

I ask that you please dig deep and try to find a way to help sustain this important local institution.

Mike Roberts

From: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
To: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
Subject: Funding for Arts and Culture El Dorado
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 12:44:25 PM

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my unwavering support for Arts and Culture El Dorado and to advocate for the invaluable contributions this organization makes to our community. As we embark on the transformative journey of bringing Veraison to life, I am reminded of the essential role that Arts and Culture El Dorado plays in nurturing and sustaining the arts in our region.

Arts and Culture El Dorado's dedication to creating and maintaining art in and around El Dorado County is commendable. Through their tireless efforts, they enrich our community with diverse cultural experiences, foster creativity, and promote artistic expression. Their commitment to supporting local artists, organizing events, and facilitating public art installations enhances the vibrancy and vitality of our surroundings.

Veraison, our ambitious art project, epitomizes the profound impact that organizations like Arts and Culture El Dorado have on our community. It embodies the fusion of art and nature, celebrating our region's rich heritage and showcasing the talents of local artists. The success of Veraison would not be possible without the unwavering support and advocacy of Arts and Culture El Dorado.

In light of recent challenges facing Arts and Culture El Dorado's funding, it is imperative that we stand together to ensure the continued existence and prosperity of this invaluable organization. Now more than ever, we need to reaffirm our commitment to the arts and recognize the indispensable role that Arts and Culture El Dorado plays in shaping the cultural landscape of our community.

I urge you to join me in supporting Arts and Culture El Dorado. Together, let us champion their mission and work tirelessly to safeguard the future of the arts in El Dorado County.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to reach out if you have any questions or need further information.

Warm regards,

Justin Sawyer

Artist (Veraison)

-

Justin Sawyer
Event Manager & Décor Designer | Nectar Events, Inc.
(530) 717-7419 direct

From: Terry LeMoncheck
To: Terry LeMoncheck
Subject: Arts and Culture El Dorado
Date: Monday, April 1, 2024 12:07:53 PM

From: Caitlin Thompson <thompson.caitlin@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, March 31, 2024 10:39 PM
To: Terry LeMoncheck <terry@artsandcultureeldorado.org>
Subject: Letter of support

Dear Board of Supervisors,

Arts and Culture El Dorado is a vital asset to the entirety of El Dorado County. Through their multifaceted and tireless work they bring activities, entertainment, and opportunities to a county that is sorely lacking in the diverse array of programs they offer. Arts and Culture El Dorado not only provides means for our locals, youth and veterans to express themselves through the arts (an act that has been scientifically proven to reduce violence and suicide in vulnerable communities) but they also provide events that draw tourists to our county, thus bolstering the local economy.

The staff of Arts and Culture always strives to elevate our large artistic community in every program, activity and partnership. Not only does Poetry Out Loud allow our high schoolers to discover the power of poetry and grow their self confidence, but it opens a new window for the youth of our county to learn through. Veterans' Voices Writing Workshop brings veterans together to write their stories in a safe, positive environment. Switchboard Gallery is the only non-commercial gallery in the entire county, and allows the story of our county to be told through different mediums, and by different perspectives. Their partnership with outside entities (Kilt and Cork, The Green Room, and Sugar Skull Art Walk for example) allows the community to expand on the types of events, entertainment, and activities on offer. Through doing this, they, and the arts, broaden the horizons of everyone in El Dorado County; serving as a means to educate, entertain, and showcase the amazing, diverse talent tucked away in not only Placerville, but the unincorporated towns as well.

The arts are a powerful means to grow an economy, explore and tackle societal issues, educate on other ways of looking at the world, and provide opportunity for employment. Without funding given to the arts, towns wither and die as people leave to more vibrant communities.

Please keep Arts and Culture El Dorado on the County's budget, as they are the only organization of their kind in the county, and provide nothing but benefits to our citizens.

Caitlin Thompson
Resident of El Dorado, CA

From: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
To: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
Subject: Keep Arts and Culture's funding!
Date: Friday, March 29, 2024 2:49:42 PM

Dear Board of Supervisors,

I am a full-time independent working artist living and working in El Dorado County, and I am a believer it how essential the arts and creative activities are to our community's vibrancy. The arts connect us to each other across cultural boundaries through the universality of music, poetry, literature, and the visual arts. Arts keep our imaginations alive at every phase of life, with proven positive impact on mental, physical, and emotional health. By working at the local level, Arts and Culture El Dorado serves our community right where we all live. I urge you to keep Arts and Culture El Dorado's current funding in place!

Sincerely,
Andie Thrans, Visual Artist
Coloma, CA

Andie Thrans | Painting & Book Art
[About ForestSong](#)
[Website](#)
[Instagram](#)

Wednesday, March 27 2024

Dear Board of Supervisors,

We are writing to strongly ask you to reconsider cutting the arts funding in our county. We were born and raised in Placerville and have enjoyed settling here in this community with our family. We are also theater artists and educators. Since 2018, we have been able to put forth numerous projects through fiscal partnership with Arts and Culture El Dorado. These have included a production for the Wakamatsu 150th anniversary, numerous arts education projects with local school and youth organizations, and more. Without Arts and Culture, we would be unable to access necessary state and local grants that support these projects. The infrastructure that Arts and Culture provides is vital for artists and small arts and culture organizations in our local area. This partnership has been crucial for us. We have been able to tell stories and create relevant performances to inspire this community and bring us together. We are especially proud of our work with education and young people in this town, to be able to connect with the youth of this town and help them to find ways of expression in difficult times. Without Arts and Culture's support, these types of outreach programs are much more difficult to maintain.

It is always devastating for us to feel our local leaders see the arts as something that isn't necessary in the budget, which time after time has been proven false. In fact, it has been shown that arts and culture are absolutely crucial for the health of a community. A budget cut would affect so many people rely on Arts and Culture El Dorado including artists and those that benefit from the numerous programs Arts & Culture provides and supports.

Cutting funding will affect the work, the livelihood, and experiences of so many people in our local area.

We urge you to reconsider this significant budget cut due to the immediate and long term harm that it will cause.

Sincerely,

Tiffany and Jamie Van Camp

See The Elephant Theater & Dance Company, Arts Incubator Project

From: Terry LeMoncheck
To: Terry LeMoncheck
Subject: Letter of Support for County Funding
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 12:51:46 PM

From: christine@bonneviekitchen.com <christine@bonneviekitchen.com>
Sent: Thursday, March 28, 2024 8:18 AM
To: Jordan Hyatt-Miller <jordan@artsandcultureeldorado.org>
Subject: RE: Letter of Support for County Funding

Board of Supervisors,

I very happy to write about the contribution of Arts and Culture El Dorado and the need for continued funding. This organization creates many opportunities for our community to connect through programs and the Creative Currents column. In a era where many community members are isolated and without resources to art, inspiration, gatherings, these programs are critical to mental health. This agency also provides a critical link to our rich local history and preservation awareness.

As a new business owner in El Dorado County, we had the opportunity to share our history and renovation of our Blue Barn Provisions project in Camino. Many community members came out to see the barn and hear more about the history in the area.

I support continued funding,

Warmest Regards,

Christine Wehr
Blue Barn Provisions Camino
916-500-9714

From: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
To: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
Subject: email for the Board of Supervisors about continuing funding
Date: Thursday, March 28, 2024 12:48:47 PM

March 28, 2024

Dear Board of Supervisors:

Please keep funding Arts & Culture El Dorado. The arts programs make El Dorado County special and promote deeper understanding by nourishing creativity and happiness in all residents. It's a very important organization that has done so much to enhance the experience of living in El Dorado County.

I was a landowner in El Dorado County for well over a decade (6661 Kelsey Canyon Road, Placerville) and participated in the Arts & Culture program Poetry Out Loud, an enrichment program for high schoolers, and taught writing at Arts and Culture, which was deeply appreciated by its students. I would hate to see all Arts & Culture programs lose funding, especially Veterans' Voices, which is such an important resource for veterans in El Dorado County, and the Poet Laureate, a position which brings a deeply talented word artist to support and create programs for residents in EDC.

Please preserve the proud record that El Dorado County holds in supporting Arts & Culture.

Sincerely,
Wendy Patrice Williams

From: [Dawn Wolfson](#)
To: [Terry LeMoncheck](#)
Subject: Funding for Arts and Culture El Dorado
Date: Saturday, March 30, 2024 8:58:51 PM

Hi Terry,

I support the County of El Dorado continuing to fund Arts and Culture El Dorado. The importance of furthering art in our community cannot be understated. Please include my support in your packet that you are forwarding to the county.

Thanks,

Dawn Wolfson
Cameron Park

From: Paul
To: "BOS-District III"
Cc: Terry LeMoncheck
Subject: El Dorado County Budget Funding / Arts and Culture El Dorado
Date: Sunday, March 31, 2024 11:33:00 AM
Importance: High

Attn: Wendy Thomas, Chair
El Dorado County Board of Supervisors

Erin and I are aware of upcoming budget decisions of our Board of Supervisors.

We would like the Board to grant the requested ask of Arts & Culture El Dorado for the upcoming budget cycle.

We have personally supported Arts and Culture since even before it was renamed because we strongly believe in the work that it does for our entire County. The programs it promotes, including many recent additions, support all levels of our communities from youth to seniors. The expanded programs could not exist without the requested grant.

We have reviewed the recent 990s of Arts and Culture. About one-third of its total budget relies on government grants from the NEA to El Dorado County. Without that support, the arts in our County would be at risk.

Please consider granting the requested funds to Arts and Culture during the upcoming budget meetings and discussions.

Paul R. Zappettini & Erin Dealey

zappdealey@sbcglobal.net

916.425.8909 (cell)

