



Strengthening arts, culture,
and creative expression as the
tools to cultivate a better
California for all.

Gavin Newsom, **Governor**
Danielle Brazell, **Executive Director**
2750 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 300, Sacramento CA 95833
(916) 322-6555 | www.arts.ca.gov

**Minutes of Public Meeting
CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL
Tuesday, May 13, 2025
10:00 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.
On Location/Virtual Hybrid Meeting**

Location	Address	City, State, ZIP	Council Member(s) and Staff Present
SF Arts Commission	401 Van Ness Ave	San Francisco, CA 94102	Council Member Dorka Keehn Council Member Nicola Miner CAC Staff: Arts Specialist Charlie O'Malley
City of San Diego Commission for Arts & Culture	1200 Third Ave	San Diego, CA 92101	Vice Chair Leah Goodwin Council Member Vicki Estrada CAC Staff: Graphic Designer Steve Mok
City of West Hollywood Arts Division	8300 Santa Monica Blvd	West Hollywood, CA 90069	Chair Roxanne Messina Captor Council Member Alex Israel CAC Staff: Data Equity and Evaluations Manager Rebecca Ratzkin
Fresno City College	1101 East University Ave	Fresno, CA 93741	Council Member Caleb Duarte CAC Staff:

			Race and Equity Manager Megan Morgan
CA Arts Council	2750 Gateway Oaks Dr	Sacramento, CA 95833	CAC Staff: Executive Director Brazell, Public Affairs Director Gutierrez, Director of Program Services Kristin Margolis, Arts Program Manager Josy Miller

The members of the California Arts Council convened in Pasadena and via web conference to discuss and vote on various items as listed in the minutes below.

Council Members Present In-Person (locations noted above):

Council Chair Roxanne Messina Captor
Council Vice Chair Leah Goodwin
Council Member Caleb Duarte
Council Member Vicki Estrada
Council Member Alex Israel
Council Member Dorka Keehn
Council Member Nicola Miner

Council Members Absent:

Council Member Gerald Clarke
Council Member Roy Hirabayashi
Council Member Phil Mercado¹

Arts Council Staff Present:

Danielle Brazell, Executive Director
Gloriela Garcia, Interim Deputy Director
Kristin Margolis, Director of Program Services
Carissa Gutierrez, Director of Public Affairs
Julie Estrella, Council Liaison
Elisa Gollub, Arts Program Manager
Josy Miller, Arts Program Manager
Charlie O'Malley, Arts Program Specialist
Megan Morgan, Race & Equity Manager
Rebecca Ratzkin, Equity Measures & Evaluation Manager
Kimberly Brown, Public Affairs Specialist
Zachary Hill, IT Specialist
Steve Mok, Public Affairs Specialist

1. Call to Order

Chair Messina Captor called the meeting to order at 10:00 AM.

2. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Public Affairs Director Gutierrez called the roll. 7 members were present in person at the publicly listed locations noted in the agenda.

3. VOTING ITEM: Unused FY 24-25 Local Assistance Funds

Council Member Duarte presented on behalf of the Programs Policy Committee as Council Member Clarke.

The committee presented two options for utilizing unexpended local assistance funds from fiscal year 2024-2025, which totaled \$57,959. The funds must be allocated before the state's fiscal year-end deadline of May 24th.

The Programs Policy Committee recommends that Council vote to approve one of the following scenarios to encumber unused 2024 funds:

1. Subsidizing State-Local Partners (SLP) from the lower quartiles of the Healthy Places Index (HPI) and with lower organizational Total Revenues (TR) to travel to the capacity-building SLP annual convening, by offering scholarships of: a. \$2,000 to the 17 SLPs with TRs under \$250,000; and b. \$1,500 to the additional 15 organizations serving counties in the lower HPI quartiles that have TRs under \$1,000,000.
2. Augmenting Folk and Traditional Arts grants for the Administering Organization (AO) grantees to disburse to individual artists with urgent or emergent needs, offering an up to 5% administrative fee for the AOs.

The Committee emphasized the need to decentralize cultural infrastructure, particularly supporting under-resourced rural areas and artists in lower HPI quartiles. Council Member Duarte suggested increasing operational grant amounts in the future to help SLPs with limited resources and noted the trusted regional expertise of administering organizations ACTA and the Center for Cultural Power.

A motion was made by Council Member Vicki Estrada to move forward with Option 2—augmenting folk and traditional arts grants via the existing AOs, with a 5% admin fee, to support artists facing urgent or emergent needs. The motion was seconded by Council Member Alex Israel.

Chair Roxanne Messina-Captor opened the floor for public comment specific to this item. **Read full public comment below.**

The council concluded its public comment session, then moved to deliberate on how to allocate the remaining \$57,959 from the 2024-2025 local appropriation. Chair Roxanne Messina-Captor proposed an amendment to divide these funds equally: half for scholarships supporting State Local Partners (SLPs) at capacity-building convenings,

and the other half to augment folk and traditional arts grants for individual artists, distributed by administering organizations (AOs) with an allowance of up to a 5% administrative fee. This amendment was seconded by Council Member Miner.

During the discussion on the amendment, a council member questioned the staff's capacity to manage such a split allocation; the Executive Director confirmed its feasibility. Several council members advocated for direct artist support, pointing out previous funding for SLPs and recent cuts to folk art programming. They underscored the economic volatility in the art market and the urgent need for artist assistance. Conversely, the Chair highlighted that SLPs had also faced funding reductions and were crucial in reaching individual artists. Chair Messina Captor called for the vote on the amendment. In favor: Messina Captor, Miner; Not in favor: Vice Chair Goodwin, Council Members Duarte, Estrada, Israel, Keehn. Amendment did not pass.

The discussion then reverted to the original motion: to allocate the entire \$57,959 to augment folk and traditional arts grants for individual artists. Reservations were expressed by a council member regarding one of the administering organizations, Center for Cultural Power, citing unfamiliarity with its operations and delays in awarding previous grants. However, the Executive Director and another council member clarified that staff maintained consistent contact with both AOs and that both organizations had scored similarly in the vetting process. The final vote on the original motion passed unanimously. In favor: Messina Captor, Vice Chair Goodwin, Council Members Duarte, Estrada, Israel, Keehn, and Miner.

The council approved the allocation of the total remaining funds to augment folk and traditional arts grants for administering organization grantees, to be dispersed to individual artists with urgent needs, including a 5% administrative fee for the AOs.

19. Adjournment

Chair Messina Captor adjourned the meeting at 10:52 AM. The next council meeting is scheduled for June 20 in San Diego.

CAC PUBLIC COMMENT SUBMISSIONS COUNCIL MEETING May 13, 2025

- **Giselle Tongi
(She/Her/Hers)
FilAm Arts, Los Angeles County
Current or Former Grantee: Arts & Cultural Organizations General
Operating Relief;**

RE: Agenda Item 4. VOTING ITEM: Unused FY 24-25 Local Assistance Funds ;

To the California Arts Council,

I am writing to urge the Council to consider a critical issue impacting California-based arts organizations. The recent rescission of committed funds by the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) has created significant financial hardship for many of these organizations, jeopardizing their ability to serve their communities and sustain vital cultural programming.

In light of this situation, I propose that the Council consider allocating unused Local Assistance Funds from the 2024-25 budget to California arts organizations that have been directly affected by the current administration's decision to rescind NEA funding. This reallocation would provide crucial support to these organizations during this challenging time, enabling us to:

Continue providing essential arts programming to California communities.

Maintain organizational stability and capacity.

Mitigate the negative impact of federal funding cuts on the arts sector in our state.

By taking this action, the California Arts Council would demonstrate its commitment to supporting the arts and ensuring that California remains a vibrant center for cultural expression, even in the face of federal funding reductions.

- **Julianna Schultz**

(She/Her/Hers)

, Sacramento County

Current or Former Grantee:

RE: Agenda Item 4. VOTING ITEM: Unused FY 24-25 Local Assistance Funds ;

Dear California Arts Council,

I am writing to express deep concern over the current exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from eligibility for state arts funding.

Organizations like B Street Theatre are cornerstones of California's cultural landscape. We provide year-round employment for artists, offer extensive youth education programs, and share our venue with smaller companies that do not have access to professional performance spaces.

As a teacher at B Street Theatre, I have witnessed firsthand the transformative power of the arts on students. Through our educational programs, I've seen students develop confidence, creativity, and critical thinking skills. These experiences not only enrich their academic journey but also foster a lifelong appreciation for the arts.

Like many in the arts sector, we continue to face extreme financial challenges. With reduced NEA funding, donor fatigue, and inflationary pressure, the exclusion of organizations of our size from CAC funding is not just short-sighted—it is threatening our long-term survival. In this environment, every dollar is critical.

I respectfully urge the Council to eliminate or raise the operating budget cap for grant eligibility, ensuring that all nonprofit arts organizations—regardless of size—can access the support they need to serve their communities.

Thank you for considering this request.

Julianna Schultz

- **Jenny Winstead-Rodriguez**
(She/Her/Hers)
B St Theatre - Teaching Artist, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee: State-Local Partnership;
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am writing to express deep concern over the current exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from eligibility for state arts funding.

Organizations like B Street Theatre are cornerstones of California's cultural landscape. We provide year-round employment for artists, offer extensive youth education programs, and share our venue with smaller companies that do not have access to professional performance spaces.

Like many in the arts sector, we continue to face extreme financial challenges. With reduced NEA funding, donor fatigue, and inflationary pressure, the exclusion of organizations of our size from CAC funding is not just short-sighted—it is threatening our long-term survival. In this environment, every dollar is critical.

I respectfully urge the Council to eliminate or raise the operating budget cap for grant eligibility, ensuring that all nonprofit arts organizations—regardless of size—can access the support they need to serve their communities.

Sincerely,
Jenny Winstead-Rodriguez

- **William Hodges**

(He/Him/His)

Dignity Health, Sacramento County

Current or Former Grantee:

RE: Agenda Item 4. VOTING ITEM: Unused FY 24-25 Local Assistance Funds ;

Dear California Arts Council,

As a proud Board member of the B Street Theatre, I am writing to express deep concern over the current exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from eligibility for state arts funding.

Organizations like B Street Theatre are cornerstones of California's cultural landscape. We provide year-round employment for artists, offer extensive youth education programs, and share our venue with smaller companies that do not have access to professional performance spaces.

Like many in the arts sector, we continue to face extreme financial challenges. With reduced NEA funding, donor fatigue, and inflationary pressure, the exclusion of organizations of our size from CAC funding is not just short-sighted—it is threatening our long-term survival. In this environment, every dollar is critical.

I respectfully urge the Council to eliminate or raise the operating budget cap for grant eligibility, ensuring that all nonprofit arts organizations—regardless of size—can access the support they need to serve their communities.

Thank you for your consideration.

William Hodges

Dignity Health

Board Member | B Street Theater

- **Christopher Bogard**

(He/Him/His)

B Street Theatre, Sacramento County

Current or Former Grantee: Arts and Accessibility;Arts Education

Exposure;Local Impact;

RE: Agenda Item 4. VOTING ITEM: Unused FY 24-25 Local Assistance Funds ;

Dear California Arts Council,

I am writing to express deep concern over the current exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from eligibility for state arts funding.

Organizations like B Street Theatre are cornerstones of California's cultural landscape. We provide year-round employment for artists, offer extensive youth

education programs, and share our venue with smaller companies that do not have access to professional performance spaces.

Like many in the arts sector, we continue to face extreme financial challenges. With reduced NEA funding, donor fatigue, and inflationary pressure, the exclusion of organizations of our size from CAC funding is not just short-sighted—it is threatening our long-term survival. In this environment, every dollar is critical.

I respectfully urge the Council to eliminate or raise the operating budget cap for grant eligibility, ensuring that all nonprofit arts organizations—regardless of size—can access the support they need to serve their communities.

The contributions that B Street Theatre makes to the arts, entertainment and education sectors are more important than ever, as the stories we share inspire young people of all backgrounds to make a positive impact on the world they are creating for the future.

Sincerely,
Chris Bogard

- **Hayden Kandul**
(She/Her/Hers)
, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item 4. VOTING ITEM: Unused FY 24-25 Local Assistance
Funds ;

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
Hayden

- **Kathrine Fegette**
(She/Her/Hers)
, Placer County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
Kaathrine H. Fegette

- **Tamara**
(She/Her/Hers)
Concerned citizen, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item 4. VOTING ITEM: Unused FY 24-25 Local Assistance Funds ;

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
Tamara

- **Jessika L Thomas**
(Prefer not to answer)
, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
Dr. Jessika L. Thomas

- **C Cordero**
()
, Placer County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
Carla K. Cordero

- **Conrad Kling**
(Prefer not to answer)
, Placer County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a long time season ticket holder and supporter of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
Conrad Kling

- **Neal Oppenheimer**
(He/Him/His)
, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee: Not a current or former grantee;
RE: Agenda Item

As a dedicated patron of B Street Theatre, I am writing to express my concern regarding the proposed exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets exceeding \$3 million from CAC grant eligibility.

This policy could inadvertently marginalize institutions that are pivotal to California's cultural and educational landscape. B Street Theatre, for instance, not only delivers compelling performances and provides employment for local artists and staff but also enriches the lives of school-age children through its esteemed Family Series. As Northern California's only fully professional, resident theatre for children, this series has introduced over 500,000 young audiences and their families to the transformative power of live theater over the past two decades.

In urban centers, where operational costs are inherently higher, organizations like B Street Theatre play an essential role in fostering community engagement and cultural education. Their contributions align with the Council's mission to "strengthen arts, culture, and creative expression as the tools to cultivate a better California for all" .

I urge the Council to consider the broader implications of this policy and to ensure that funding decisions support the diverse and impactful arts organizations that serve our communities.

Sincerely,
Neal Oppenheimer
Sacramento County

- **Mike Moylan**
(He/Him/His)
, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow. Their ticket prices are reasonably affordable to seniors and a major social event for seniors.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem. A more data driven assessment should be conducted to be sure the right theaters get some financial support.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
Mike Moylan

- **Jonathon McCarty**
(
, **Sacramento County**
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
Jonathon McCarty

- **Alicia**

(She/Her/Hers)
B Street Theater, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
Alicia

- **Laura F.**
(She/Her/Hers)
Citizen supporter, Placer County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item 4. VOTING ITEM: Unused FY 24-25 Local Assistance Funds ;

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely, Laura F.

- **Amanda Hall**
()
, Yolo County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
Amanda Vine Hall

- **Natali Hoeg**
(She/Her/Hers)
, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee: Not a current or former grantee;
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
Natali Hoeg

- **David Hall**
()
, Yolo County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
David P. Hall

- **Jeff Kaplowitz**
(He/Him/His)
, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee: Not a current or former grantee;
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow. Without B Street some of these other programs would not survive.

B Street faces the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
Jeff Kaplowitz

- **Beth Schatz**
(She/Her/Hers)
B Street Theatre, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council members,
It is my understanding that B Street Theatre in Sacramento, CA has been excluded from funding by CAC because its operating budget exceeds \$3 million. I am a longtime subscriber of B Street Theatre, and am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

B Street Theatre is an essential contributor to California's cultural life and provides not just performances, but jobs, children's education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow (and for other non-profits to hold meetings in their space, as well).

This organization has faced many financial challenges over the years and weathered the COVID storm admirably by providing nearly daily complimentary programs to its audiences via zoom, which kept its followers/ subscribers engaged, and allowed the organization to remain viable. It continues to struggle

to be able to keep offering the wonderful children's programs it offers, alongside high quality theater for both families and adults. Excluding B Street Theatre (and others) from your support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider your policy that disqualifies organizations simply due to operating budget size; all nonprofits committed to serving the public should be allowed access to these resources.

Sincerely,
Beth Schatz

- **Alexander Hall**
()
, Yolo County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
Alexander Hall

- **Martin Hall**
()
, Yolo County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
Martin Q. Hall

- **Cheryl Sherman**
(She/Her/Hers)
, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,

Cheryl Sherman

- **CELESTE HUNZIKER**
(She/Her/Hers)
private citizen, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Please reconsider your proposed policy to limit funds to nonprofit organizations with operating budgets over 3 'million. I support B St Theatre especially its outreach to elementary schools. Even organizations of this size need public support.

- **Janet Steiner**
()
, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee: Not a current or former grantee;
RE: Agenda Item

I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility. B Street plays a unique role in introducing California schoolchildren to live theater. B Street has been working with and providing shows to Sacramento area schools for over 30 years. The extent of its outreach to students is unmatched by any other theater company in California. Continued access to CAC grants is imperative if B Street is to maintain its commitment to removing financial obstacles to introducing live theater to low-income students.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

- **Beverly Silva**
()
, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need to fulfill their mission..

Sincerely,
Beverly E. Silva
1489 7th Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95818

- **Jim Silva**
()
, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,

Jim C. Silva
1489 7th Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95818

- **Megan Nix**
(She/Her/Hers)
, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

(She/Her/Hers)
, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

- **S D**
(She/Her/Hers)
member of the public, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

The B Street Theatre has been a welcome vibrant addition to the Sacramento Arts scene. I am concerned that without the ability to apply for CAC grants, the organization could flounder. We all need the arts!

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
Sara D.

- **Jeanne Munoz**
(She/Her/Hers)
, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee: Not a current or former grantee;
RE: Agenda Item 4. VOTING ITEM: Unused FY 24-25 Local Assistance
Funds ;

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
Jeanne

- **Deborah Franklin**
(She/Her/Hers)
, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a longtime subscriber to and supporter of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Arts organizations, big and small, need support from grants to sustain the arts in California. An organization such as B Street Theatre is not so big that it can survive without grants from CAC and other granting agencies. Their budget may

look big, but taking into account all the different arts programming B Street offers, it is downright thin. B Street is so much more than one theatre. They are the only professional children's theatre in northern California. They provide a variety of theatre classes for children and adults. They host a Spanish-language theatre project. They encourage and support new playwrights and directors with their new plays festival and new play bunch. They cooperate with other performing arts organizations in the community by providing a space for music and dance, including the Sacramento Gay Men's Chorus and the Sacramento Ballet. They bring a wide range of musicians to Sacramento. This is all wonderful work, but it would not be possible without grants.

Please reconsider the \$3 million budget limit for grant eligibility. It harms important arts organizations, their patrons, and the communities that they serve.
Deborah Franklin

- **Wendy Hoyt**
(She/Her/Hers)
Citizen/voter, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear CAC:

Thank you for all you do to support the arts in California and particularly for your financial support to date for the B Street Theatre in Sacramento. We are longtime patrons of B Street Theatre, and are deeply concerned over the new exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide performances, jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow. Their embracement of diversity and considerable outreach to school children and minority communities is most impressive. It would be devastating not to have them continue at the level they currently operate.

B Street faces the same financial difficulties as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem. We are most fortunate that they have survived during and beyond the Covid pandemic. The incredible role they played in this community during that time cannot be understated.

Please reconsider and increase the \$3 million threshold to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they desperately need.

Respectfully,
Wendy J. Hoyt
Sacramento

- **Joel Leong**
(He/Him/His)
Self, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee: Not a current or former grantee;
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council:

My wife and I are patrons of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets of \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

B Street faces the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

We love the B Street Theatre.

Please do not contribute to their downfall.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Joel Leong &
Laurie Hudson

- **Lou Morris**
(He/Him/His)
individual, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee: Not a current or former grantee;
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
Lou Morris

- **Richard A. Moore**
(He/Him/His)
, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee: Not a current or former grantee;
RE: Agenda Item

To the California Arts Council,

I urge you to reconsider the 2025 Grants Season eligibility change that excludes nonprofit arts organizations with budgets over \$3 million. This policy unjustly disqualifies vital institutions like Sacramento's B Street Theatre, which provide immense value to our communities through local employment, youth outreach, and accessible programming.

As consumers, we are already struggling with historic inflation—housing, food, transportation, and services are all rising sharply. Nonprofit arts organizations face the same pressures, with escalating costs for staffing, operations, and production. A \$3 million budget today no longer reflects the scale of surplus—it reflects survival and service expansion.

B Street Theatre has responsibly grown to meet community needs and now faces being penalized for that success. Excluding such organizations does not promote equity—it undermines it. Rather than impose an arbitrary cap, consider a tiered grant structure that ensures fair access across organization sizes.

Please do not enforce this exclusionary policy. All of California's cultural institutions, regardless of budget size, deserve support as we navigate this economically challenging time.

Sincerely, Richard Moore

- **Laura & Mark**
(Mrs. & Mr.)
long time subscriber to 4 theater companies in Sacramento, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee: Not a current or former grantee;
RE: Agenda Item 4. VOTING ITEM: Unused FY 24-25 Local Assistance Funds ;

Please support THE BIG IDEA THEATER & CAPITAL STAGE THEATER & CALIFORNIA STAGE Theater. They all show excellent, thought provoking, interesting plays that stay in your consciousness a long time. It is Food for your Soul! They also operate on modest budgets. What a terrible loss it'd be to lose them. All the actors are serious professionals, Equity members.

- **Susan Wheeler**
(She/Her/Hers)
, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a long-term patron of B Street Theatre – it's one of the reasons I love living in the Sacramento Region! This letter expresses my concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow. Arts are essential for the vibrancy of any community. I've taken my grandchildren and now great grandchildren to B Street performances because I understand how important the arts are to our mental health.

B Street faces the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
Susan Wheeler

- **Brooke**
(She/Her/Hers)
, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

I am asking the CAC to reconsider their new requirements for their 2025 Grants Season that now exclude nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets

over \$3 million. This includes B Street Theatre. I am a teacher in the Sacramento area and I see first hand the positive social, emotional, and educational effects the theatre has on students. I am also a patron of The B Street Theatre. Because I am low-income, I take advantage of the \$9 at 9 performances. This allows me to access performances I might otherwise be excluded from. In that, the B Street Theatre has enriched my own life. It is meaningful and important.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

()
, Yolo County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
Betty

- **Jo Turney Schultz**
(She/Her/Hers)
Individual, Sacramento County

Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Plz reconsider decision to only award grants for non profits w/budgets under \$3 Mil.B St Theatre provides a theatrical experience unlike any other; 1,000's of kids have been enthralled & educated thru their programs.To lose that connection for kids who know nothing more than video games would be a tragedy... to grow to adulthood w/out live theatre would be heartbreaking.

- **Emily Edmond**
(She/Her/Hers)
, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee: Not a current or former grantee;
RE: Agenda Item 4. VOTING ITEM: Unused FY 24-25 Local Assistance
Funds ;

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Furthermore, at a time when the arts as a whole are under unprecedented political pressure, we need more support across all arts organization, not less. Art breeds art, in the best way.

Sincerely,
Emily Edmond

- **Kevin Porter**
(He/Him/His)
, Sacramento County

Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council members,
I attend musical and theatrical performances regularly at the B Street Theatre in Sacramento.

These events are a vital source of enlightenment, entertainment, and community pride, but they could be reduced or eliminated by the Council's decision to limit CAC grant funding to entities with budgets under \$3 million.

I know that B Street Theatre also provides numerous educational programming for youth and families, and allows smaller nonprofit groups to utilize their spaces. The B Street Theatre has struggled financially since the pandemic and is still in need of financial support from the Council and all other potential sources of funding.

Please reconsider this policy change.

Thank you.

- **Rebecca Palmer**
(She/Her/Hers)
Not affiliated, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee: Not a current or former grantee;
RE: Agenda Item 4. VOTING ITEM: Unused FY 24-25 Local Assistance Funds ;

am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Palmer

- **Mike Edelstein**

(He/Him/His)
, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee: Not a current or former grantee;
RE: Agenda Item 4. VOTING ITEM: Unused FY 24-25 Local Assistance
Funds ;

- **Shirley Lutgen**
(She/Her/Hers)
, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee: Not a current or former grantee;
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,

- **Lyndsay Burch**
(She/Her/Hers)
B Street Theatre (Theatre for Children Inc.), Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee: Artists in Schools;Arts Education
Exposure;JUMP StArts;Organizational Development;
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

As CEO and Executive Artistic Director of The Sofia: Home of B Street Theatre, I am deeply concerned by the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with budgets over \$3 million from CAC funding.

Over my 12 years at B Street, CAC funding has supported our Family Series (serving over 500,000 students and families), our artists-in-schools program, and essential staffing and operational needs.

B Street Theatre is a cornerstone of California's arts landscape, providing year-round artist employment, education programs, and space-sharing with smaller companies. Like many, we face severe financial pressures: decreased NEA and foundation funding, donor fatigue, and inflation. Excluding organizations like ours threatens our survival. Every dollar matters.

I moved from the East Coast to join B Street, inspired by Sacramento's vibrant arts community including the Crocker Art Museum and Broadway Sacramento. The current cap endangers this cultural ecosystem.

I urge the Council to eliminate or raise the budget cap to ensure all nonprofit arts organizations can access critical funding to serve their communities.

- **PH Wong**
(Prefer not to answer)
individual patron of the arts, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
PH Wong

- **Jacquie K**
(She/Her/Hers)
B Street Theater, Sacramento County

Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

I am a recent subscriber to the B Street Theater. I attended their New Comedy Festival first the first time in 2024, where they developed 4 plays over a week period out of hundreds submitted. I had the opportunity to meet the playwrights, watch their plays emerge for the first time on stage with first rate actors reading the play twice during the week, and receive audience feedback. I wanted all four plays to be produced. They were fabulous and the theater gave 250% bring ping them to life. I returned to the second staging of each show and brought people with me. I loved it. I cannot say enough about what they bring to the Sacramento community and to playwrights from across the country who submitted their work. Since then, I have attended multiple events to bring theater to young people, schools, and families, along with important works for adult audiences. They have provided new homes for artists from recently closed venues here.

I ask you to consider not arbitrarily restricting grant assistance to organizations with an operating budget of less than \$3 million and instead look at the total benefit and range of services a theater company leverages with the grant assistance. B Street is a great asset to the development of arts in Sacramento, inspires hopes and dreams, and brings out the best in people. Thank you.

- **Jenny Clearwater**
(She/Her/Hers)
, Placer County
Current or Former Grantee: Not a current or former grantee;
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
Jenny

- **Judy Simmons**
()
WAGS at Four Seasons Westshore, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee: Not a current or former grantee;
RE: Agenda Item

We are new subscribers to B Street & the plays (originals) are wonderful & inspiring. More than 8,000 students in the Sacramento area have attended plays at B Street this year. The Arts have been so under attack with this administration more than ever it is important to support B Street. We have seen plays all around this country and B Street is one of the best. Please continue with your support/grants we need them!
Judy Simmons

- **Terri Young**
(She/Her/Hers)
, County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a big fan of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely, Terri Young

()
, Yolo County

Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
Lili Ann Metzger

- **Janette Vine**
(She/Her/Hers)
, Yolo County
Current or Former Grantee: Not a current or former grantee;
RE: Agenda Item 4. VOTING ITEM: Unused FY 24-25 Local Assistance
Funds ;

Dear California Arts Council,

We've been season subscribers to the B Street Theatre for over 25 years. We have concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

This organization is loved and attending their performances is a joy and not to be taken lightly. Besides their contributions to jobs, programs for children and new and established performers are a necessary part of an all-around community. They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

warm regards,
Janette Vine and Dale Drozd

- **Frances McChesney**
(She/Her/Hers)
, Yolo County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I and two of my friends have been subscribers to the B Street Theatre for more than 20 years. We personally benefit from B Street's programs and see that the Theatre makes a tremendous contribution to the arts, in particular providing incredible shows, programs, and classes for young people. I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
Frances McChesney

()
B Street Theatre (patron)., Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,
Yes, I copied and pasted a suggested script below. That doesn't lessen my interest and concern over this new rule.

Yes, you need to establish parameters for your selection process. My suggestion: add another question on your application: How do we change our selection process if our goal is to help CA nonprofit arts organizations? You include your ideas/options AND you have a choice for "Other", with a reasonable but high character limit. Applicant can check, choose as many or few of your options, including none, AND they can enter their text under the "Other" option. To me, that's the best of both worlds: structured answers AND open-ended answer.

Regards,

Marie BAHRA

Folsom CA resident.

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,

Marie Bahra

- **Margaret Hastings**

()

Retired, Sacramento County

Current or Former Grantee: Not a current or former grantee; Person who believes in the role of art in society;

RE: Agenda Item 4. VOTING ITEM: Unused FY 24-25 Local Assistance Funds ;

I attend numerous art venues in the Sacramento area, including B Street Theater, and am very concerned about the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility. My grandchildren and I particularly enjoy the performances for children at B Street Theater. B Street Theater also plays an important role in introducing the

arts to less-privileged children who would not otherwise have the opportunity to enjoy a play.

Organizations such as B Street are critical to California's cultural life and provide jobs, educational programs and a place for other small arts groups to perform.

All arts organizations currently face financial challenges and I ask you to reconsider the proposed exclusion so that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to necessary resources.

- **Erin Moos**
(She/Her/Hers)
B Street Theatre, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council Members,

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the current exclusion that denies grant eligibility to nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets exceeding \$3 million. This change jeopardizes vital cornerstones of California's cultural landscape, including B Street Theatre.

Organizations like ours are essential hubs. B Street Theatre, operating The Sofia, provides year-round employment for artists, offers regional youth education, and shares its venue with under-resourced performing arts groups.

The assumption that a larger budget equates to robust financial health is dangerously inaccurate in today's economic climate. Like many, B Street Theatre grapples with post-pandemic deficits, inflation, declining support, and reduced NEA funding. Denying state funding to organizations like ours threatens our long-term survival and the ecosystem that supports smaller, diverse arts organizations. This policy undermines fair access and limits opportunities.

Therefore, I strongly urge the Council to reconsider and eliminate or substantially raise the budget cap. We need a more nuanced approach to ensure that all nonprofits—regardless of budget size—can access the support needed to continue serving our communities and enriching California's cultural life.

Thank you for your time and urgent consideration of this vital issue.

Sincerely,

Erin Moos

President of Board, B Street Theatre

- **Steve Hansen**
(He/Him/His)
Former Sacramento City Councilmember, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee: Not a current or former grantee;
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am writing to express deep concern over the current exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from eligibility for state arts funding.

Organizations like B Street Theatre are cornerstones of California's cultural landscape. We provide year-round employment for artists, offer extensive youth education programs, and share our venue with smaller companies that do not have access to professional performance spaces.

Like many in the arts sector, we continue to face extreme financial challenges. With reduced NEA funding, donor fatigue, and inflationary pressure, the exclusion of organizations of our size from CAC funding is not just short-sighted—it is threatening our long-term survival. In this environment, every dollar is critical.

I respectfully urge the Council to eliminate or raise the operating budget cap for grant eligibility, ensuring that all nonprofit arts organizations—regardless of size—can access the support they need to serve their communities.

Sincerely,
[Your Name]

- **Dominic Dawson Soto**
(She/Her/Hers)
Sofia - B Street Theatre, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

As a proud mom of three girls who have grown up as members of B Street Theatre, I am writing to express my deep concern about the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

For years, B Street Theatre has been an integral part of our family's life. My daughters have built confidence, fostered creativity, and developed a love for the arts through its exceptional programs. The theatre provides so much more than performances—it is a space for connection, personal growth, and inspiration. It also supports our community by providing jobs, educational opportunities, and a vital venue for smaller arts organizations to flourish.

Organizations like B Street face the same financial challenges as smaller nonprofits, and excluding them from grant funding threatens not just their future,

but the livelihoods and learning opportunities they provide. For families like mine, and communities across California, the arts are not a luxury—they are a lifeline. I urge you to reconsider this policy so that nonprofits of all sizes that serve the public, particularly ones like B Street that give back so generously, have access to the resources they need to thrive and continue enriching lives.

Thank you for your time and for supporting the arts in California.

Sincerely,

Dominic Dawson Soto

- **Julia Gowin**
(She/Her/Hers)
public, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee: Not a current or former grantee;
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

My family and I have been going to B Street since it was on B Street and my kids are finally old enough to both join for the family series. The shows we see each year from cabaret to family holiday fun are entertaining and educational, but we know B Street does so much more.

I am writing to express my concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow. And they face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need. B Street is a staple in our community we would like to keep and keep being able to afford.

Sincerely,

Julia Gowin

- **Elizabeth Ingham**
(She/Her/Hers)
B Street Theatre, Sacramento County

Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear Members of the California Arts Council,
I am a patron of the B Street Theatre and writing to urge you to reconsider the proposed eligibility changes for the 2025 Grants Season, which exclude nonprofit arts organizations with budgets over \$3 million. This change would disqualify B Street Theatre, a vital arts institution in Sacramento.

Though larger in size, B Street faces the same challenges as smaller groups: recovery from pandemic losses, rising costs, and reduced federal support. It also plays a unique and essential role in the broader arts ecosystem.

Through The Sofia, B Street provides affordable performance space for smaller companies, brings theatre to thousands of students, and supports new plays and playwrights. Removing access to CAC funding puts not just B Street at risk, but also the many artists, educators, and organizations who depend on its support. I respectfully urge the Council to adopt a more inclusive policy that recognizes the vital role mid- and large-sized nonprofits play in sustaining California's cultural landscape.

Sincerely,
Elizabeth Ingham they're

Sacramento, CA
B Street Theatre Patron

- **Andres Arango**
(He/Him/His)
B Street Theatre, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear Members of the California Arts Council,
I am a patron of the B Street Theatre, and I am writing to urge you to reconsider the proposed eligibility changes for the 2025 Grants Season, which exclude nonprofit arts organizations with budgets over \$3 million. This change would disqualify B Street Theatre, a vital arts institution in Sacramento.

Though larger in size, B Street faces the same challenges as smaller groups: recovery from pandemic losses, rising costs, and reduced federal support. It also plays a unique and essential role in the broader arts ecosystem.

Through The Sofia, B Street provides affordable performance space for smaller companies, brings theatre to thousands of students, and supports new plays and playwrights. Removing access to CAC funding puts not just B Street at risk, but also the many artists, educators, and organizations who depend on its support.

I respectfully urge the Council to adopt a more inclusive policy that recognizes the vital role mid- and large-sized nonprofits play in sustaining California's cultural landscape.

Sincerely,

Andres Arango

Sacramento, CA

B Street Theatre Patron

- **Alan Ingham**
(He/Him/His)
B Street Theatre, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear Members of the California Arts Council,

I am a patron of the B Street Theatre, and I am writing to urge you to reconsider the proposed eligibility changes for the 2025 Grants Season, which exclude nonprofit arts organizations with budgets over \$3 million. This change would disqualify B Street Theatre, a vital arts institution in Sacramento.

Though larger in size, B Street faces the same challenges as smaller groups: recovery from pandemic losses, rising costs, and reduced federal support. It also plays a unique and essential role in the broader arts ecosystem.

Through The Sofia, B Street provides affordable performance space for smaller companies, brings theatre to thousands of students, and supports new plays and playwrights. Removing access to CAC funding puts not just B Street at risk, but also the many artists, educators, and organizations who depend on its support.

I respectfully urge the Council to adopt a more inclusive policy that recognizes the vital role mid- and large-sized nonprofits play in sustaining California's cultural landscape.

Sincerely,

Alan Ingham

Sacramento, CA

B Street Theatre Patron

- **Rich Hale**
(He/Him/His)
Volunteer and Sponsor of school, community, and professional theatre and choir groups, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee: Not a current or former grantee;
RE: Agenda Item

I would urge the CAC to reconsider their new requirements for their 2025 Grants Season that now exclude nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets

over \$3 million. The size of an organization does not determine the value per dollar of funding or scope of mission. A large group may be more efficient than a small one and be able to better serve an under-represented area. Each group, large or small should be judged on their own merits, without an arbitrary restriction in size. Restricting large funding simply based on size would be equivalent to saying the Red Cross should be broken down and each city or block should fend for themselves or all fire departments should be a single station.

- **Debra Boogaard**
(She/Her/Hers)
B Street Theatre at Sofia, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

- **Debra Boogaard**
(She/Her/Hers)
B Street Theatre, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

I am a decades-long patron of the B Street Theatre, and am writing to express my concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3M from CAC grant funding eligibility. This limit is arbitrary and the overall impact of organizations and their contributions to a community should be considered.

Organizations such as B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other arts groups to perform. Founded to bring live theater to thousands of children annually, B Street is cultivating new generations of arts-loving people -- in addition to the phenomenal programming offered to adults.

Organizations such as B Street face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations and excluding them from support threatens the ability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that ALL nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Respectfully,
Deb Boogaard
Folsom

- **Sarah Scott Scott**

()
, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

()
, County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
Sarah Scott

- **Grant Macleod**
(He/Him/His)
, Placer County
Current or Former Grantee: Not a current or former grantee;
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a season ticket holder of the B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of non-profit arts organizations with budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Theatre organizations such as B Street are in integral part of the cultural lifeblood of our area. They provide not only entertainment value, but jobs, education programs, and a space for the community to come together.

All such organizations face the same financial hurdles as smaller performing venues do, and withholding support from them threatens the entire ecosystem that provides such value to the residents of our area.

Please re-visit this decision as it is overwhelmingly in the interest of not only the B Street Theatre itself, but all the many patrons that have come to rely on the wonderful family entertainment that they provide.

Sincerely,

Grant Macleod

- **Melanie Arellano, El Dorado County**

Dear California Arts Council,

My husband and I are patrons of B Street Theatre. For over a decade, we have traveled from Solano County then El Dorado Hills to attend events at B Street Theatre. We are writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,

Melanie and Paul Gossman

- **T Davis, Yolo County**

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

We need more organizations like B Street and should not penalize them for their successful growth.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

- **Rita Grogan (She/Her/Hers)**
B Street Theatre, Sacramento County

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Respectfully submitted,

Rita Grogan, an art patron who believes NON-profit theaters exist to provide cultural enrichment and entertainment.

- **Marta Williams (She/Her/Hers), Sacramento County**
Current or Former Grantee: Not a current or former grantee
RE: Agenda Item 4. VOTING ITEM: Unused FY 24-25 Local Assistance Funds

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing because I recently heard that nonprofit arts organizations with budget over \$3,000,000 will not be eligible for grant funding from CAC.

Nonprofits such as B Street are important in CA - these are accessible venues that bring performances from small groups as well as mid-sized arts groups. These nonprofits are also suffering financial struggles. This is not an issue that is specific to only smaller organizations. I respectfully ask that the CAC reconsider this policy so that nonprofits committed to this service have equal access to budgetary stability.

Sincerely,

Marta Williams

- **Lisa Kirazian (She/Her/Hers)**
Playwrights Project, San Diego County
Current or Former Grantee: Arts & Cultural Organizations General
Operating Relief; Arts in Corrections
RE: Agenda Item 4. VOTING ITEM: Unused FY 24-25 Local Assistance
Funds

As President of the Board of Playwrights Project in San Diego, a 40-year theater education organization that builds literacy and communication skills by encouraging people of all ages to voice their stories through theater, I urge you to reconsider the approach to the unused FY24-25 Local Assistance Funds. As a result of recent arts funding cuts on the federal, state and local levels, as well as the CAC's prioritizing of organizations with budgets below \$250k, please know that mid-sized organizations like ours and larger will be struggling. Experienced organizations should not be penalized for growing and expanding, nor should our history and knowledge in the field be seen as a shortcoming by uplifting smaller and newer organizations. We continue to learn, adapt and evolve with the times. And we have the trust and positive regard of our partners and constituencies. We encourage you to reconsider supporting midsize organizations with the 24-25 Local Assistance Funds. Thank you.

- **Andrea Durham (She/Her/Hers), Sacramento County**
Current or Former Grantee: Not a current or former grantee

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

I have been working in the non profit cultural sector for most of my 30+ year career, and I am currently the Executive Director of a museum with an approximately \$6M budget. So I speak from very personal experience when I say that non-profits of this size face enormous financial challenges. Perhaps even more than smaller organizations. We are in extreme need of grants and every type of support that we can pursue. Our missions, our public, and our community demands that we provide necessary services and offerings that no one wants to live without. We are vital to our social fabric, the economy, and so many other parts of our community. These medium-sized organizations serve in so many ways, and funding like this helps to meet those demands. Please do not imagine us as large enough to serve the community without support - no services can be provided without money to support them.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need. We are a necessary part of our community. Thank you - Andrea

- **Vicki Ibarra (She/Her/Hers)**
Patron of the B Street Theatre, Sacramento California, Sacramento County

Dear California Arts Council,

We are long time patrons of B Street Theatre, writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility. We bring our autistic teenage grandson to the Family series performances as well as being Mainstage subscribers ourselves.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
Vicki and Robert Ibarra

- **Christian Tanton (He/Him/His)**
B Street Theatre, Sacramento County

Current or Former Grantee:

RE: Agenda Item 4. VOTING ITEM: Unused FY 24-25 Local Assistance Funds

Dear California Arts Council,

I am writing to express deep concern over the current exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from eligibility for state arts funding.

Organizations like B Street Theatre are cornerstones of California's cultural landscape. We provide year-round employment for artists, offer extensive youth education programs, and share our venue with smaller companies that do not have access to professional performance spaces.

Like many in the arts sector, we continue to face extreme financial challenges. With reduced NEA funding, donor fatigue, and inflationary pressure, the exclusion of organizations of our size from CAC funding is not just short-sighted—it is threatening our long-term survival. In this environment, every dollar is critical.

I respectfully urge the Council to eliminate or raise the operating budget cap for grant eligibility, ensuring that all nonprofit arts organizations—regardless of size—can access the support they need to serve their communities.

Sincerely,
Christian Tanton

- **Louise (Valerie) Marston (She/Her/Hers)**
retired, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem. The pandemic in 2020 as well as raising costs since have threatened Sacramento's arts community, including the B Street Theatre. It is so very important to our arts family to keep the Sofia Home of the B Street theatre thriving as it is a jewel of our city.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
Louise Valerie Marston

- **JoAnn Solov (She/Her/Hers)**
Long time supporter of the arts in Sacramento, including my license plate!, Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee:
RE: Agenda Item 4. VOTING ITEM: Unused FY 24-25 Local Assistance Funds

As a parent and grandparent, my children and grandchildren have been nurtured by the B Street Theatre. My children were always entertained and educated when the troupe performed at their elementary school, and now my grandchildren attend the shows at the Sofia Theatre. My husband and I have attended performances since the old days when the nearby train rumbled by, punctuating performances. These intimate experiences breathe life into a community and inspire young people to entertain a theater career. We continue to enjoy the variety of arts offerings, including this weekend's electric cello group which we will attend with a dozen friends.

The Sofia is a hub offering performance space to smaller groups, allowing new playwrights a voice, musicians a stage, and the public enrichment.

By excluding nonprofit organizations like the B Street, with operating budgets over 3 million, from CAC grant funding eligibility, their existence is threatened, as well as all those who rely on them to thrive. These large art organizations also need support to continue serving the public.

Spaces like the B Street are essential to California's cultural life, providing jobs, education and performance spaces. They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations and need the state's support to ensure stability.

Please reconsider this policy so that ALL nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Thank you,
JoAnn Solov

- **Nancy Oliver (She/Her/Hers)**
B Street Theater (Sophia), Sacramento County
Current or Former Grantee: It receives grants
RE: Agenda Item 4. VOTING ITEM: Unused FY 24-25 Local Assistance Funds

I am a regular B Street Theatre attendee and think it is the best theater in Sacramento. It DEFINITELY is loved by the public and should not be excluded as a nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

B street is a community gathering place for people who love theater, attend events, and it provides education and a space for small arts groups and children's theater shows along with adult performances.

This theater is loved by the community, so please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,
Nancy Oliver

- **Jan Littman (She/Her/Hers), Sacramento County**

Dear California Arts Council,

I am a patron of B Street Theatre, and I am writing to express concern over the exclusion of nonprofit arts organizations with operating budgets over \$3 million from CAC grant funding eligibility.

Organizations like B Street are essential to California's cultural life and provide not just performances, but jobs, education programs, and space for other small arts groups to perform and grow.

They face the same financial challenges as smaller organizations, and excluding them from support threatens the stability of the entire arts ecosystem.

Please reconsider this policy to ensure that all nonprofits committed to serving the public have access to the resources they need.

Sincerely,

Jan Littman