



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](http://www.arts.ca.gov)

**Minutes of Public Meeting  
CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL  
Thursday, August 1, 2024  
10:00 A.M. – 3:15 P.M.  
On Location/Virtual Hybrid Meeting  
The Western Stage at Hartnell College  
411 Central Avenue  
Salinas, CA 93901**

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

**Council Members Present In-Person:**

Roxanne Messina Captor, Chair  
Leah Goodwin, Vice Chair  
Vicki Estrada  
Roy Hirabayashi

**Council Members Present Remotely:**

Olivia Raynor  
Phil Mercado  
Gerald Clarke

**Council Members Absent:**

Caleb Duarte  
Nicola Miner  
Alex Israel

**Arts Council Staff Present:**

Danielle Brazell, Executive Director (remote)  
Ayanna Kiburi, Deputy Director  
Carissa Gutierrez, Public Affairs Director  
Kristin Margolis, Director of Programs  
Kimberly Brown, Public Affairs Specialist  
Qiana Moore, Outreach & Events Coordinator  
Rebecca Ratzkin, Equity Measures & Evaluation Manager  
Zachary Hill, IT Associate

Steve Mok, Graphic Designer  
Josy Miller, Arts Program Manager

## **1. Call to Order**

Chair Messina Captor called the meeting to order at 10:07 AM due to technical difficulties.

## **2. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum**

Deputy Director Kiburi called the roll and established a quorum, with seven Council members present.

## **3. Land and Peoples Acknowledgement**

Council member Raynor read the California Arts Council's Land and Peoples Acknowledgement.

## **4. Opening Remarks and Community Agreements**

Chair Messina Captor welcomed the attendees and acknowledged the interpreters in the room, including Paula DiMuro and Daniel Swartz (ASL); Darlene Rochella (captioner); and Jeanette Hernandez and Aldo Renteria (Spanish/English simultaneous translation).

## **5. Welcome from Michael Gutierrez, Superintendent/President of Hartnell College, and Melissa Chin-Parker, Managing Artistic Director at The Western Stage**

Opening remarks were also provided by Superintendent Michael Gutierrez, President of Hartnell College; Melissa Chin-Parker, Managing Artistic Director at the Western Stage; and Emily Morales-Ortiz, founding director for Artists Ink.

## **6. Welcome from Jacquie Atchison, Executive Director of CAC State-Local Partner Arts Council for Monterey County (Arts4MC)**

Director Atchison of the Arts Council for Monterey County (Arts4MC) provided a brief welcome and shared a presentation about the local community and the work of the SLP with the Council.

## **7. DISCUSSION: FY 2024-2025 Award Allocations**

Council Member Mercado of the Allocations Committee presented the Allocations memo and shared a PowerPoint with five major frameworks, or considerations, for the council to discuss. The considerations put forward were developed by the Allocations Committee in accordance with the CAC's Strategic Framework which centers equity and access and highlights the agency's aspirations in relation to grant making and program implementation.

Director Brazell expressed that the intention for the discussion was to capture feedback completely and holistically and to understand how those priorities align with the Council's goals.

Actual scenarios and a final vote will occur at the next council meeting scheduled for September 13<sup>th</sup>.

The five major considerations, as noted in the memo include:

1. Fund the second year of Gen Ops at a lower percentage than FY 2023-24, and fund FTA at 100% as FY 2023-24
2. Allocate equal percentages of funding to operating/partnership support and project-based grant programs.
3. Consider whether to fund more organizations at lower amounts versus higher grant awards to fewer organizations, by program.
4. Apply a reduction of 20% to all awards commensurate with the CAC's Local Assistance budget reduction.
5. Fund each program at the same percentage that corresponds to the program's percentage of total request.

### **Public comment**

Transcriptions of live public comment and written submissions are attached at the end.

### **Council discussion**

Council Members discussed several points:

- Council reviewed the considerations being presented.
- Council acknowledged that actual scenarios and allocations will be a voting item at the September council meeting.
- The Strategic Framework was highlighted as a guiding tool for the conversation.
- Council members noted the difficulty of having these types of conversations and stressed that short of increasing funding, careful and thoughtful consideration would be taken in the vote.
- A desire for increasing public comment from grassroots voices was noted.
- The Council also noted that the number of applications continues to increase year after year and securing more funding would need to be a priority.

Council members' feedback was also captured on a virtual white board and has been transcribed below.

Consideration #1: Fund the second year of Gen Ops at a lower percentage than FY 2023-24, and fund FTA at 100% as FY 2023-24

Council members highlighted the following:

- The importance of serving small diverse communities
- Focus on keeping organizations whole
- Connection to folk and traditional missions
- Prior commitment for Year 2 funds
- Concern about generating distrust with communities by making these proposed changes

- Recognition that commitment to year 2 was with the idea that we had the existing funding.

Consideration #2: Allocate equal percentages of funding to operating/partnership support and project-based grant programs.

Council members noted the following:

- How does this look the following year in comparison?
- Would we be funding fewer organizations at higher award with this?
- How is this different from previous allocations across different program types?

Consideration #3: Consider whether to fund more organizations at lower amounts versus higher grant awards to fewer organizations, by program.

Council members noted the following:

- Hearing from field getting more funding will make a difference – less money will cause more pain
- Anything is better than nothing – small groups are used to doing more with less, yet that doesn't mean that's the way it should be
- Need to balance equity with how funds go and spread things out as much as possible
- Recognize that larger organizations are funding smaller groups, as well
- How do we build infrastructure? Small group needs vs. large group needs
- How do we know the impact if they don't get the money? How is that different for small vs. larger organizations?
- How does quality of applications impact who will eventually get funded?
- How do pass through funds work as part of this approach (large organizations to smaller organizations)?

Consideration #4: Apply a reduction of 20% to all awards commensurate with the CAC's Local Assistance budget reduction.

Council members discussed:

- Not in favor- although seems we are sharing the load it isn't equitable
- Each organization is different
- 20% feels devastating for potential grantees

Consideration #5: Fund each program at the same percentage that corresponds to the program's percentage of total request.

- Council members generally agreed that not all applicants are equal so this is not an equitable approach.

## **\*Working Lunch/Artistic Performance\***

Lead artists from the current production of “Hunchback of Notre Dame” at The Western Stage performed two songs (Rosie Quintana as Esmeralda, singing “God Help the Outcasts” and Christian McCooey as Quasimodo, singing “Out There”). Vice Chair Goodwin then presented each artist with a signed certificate of recognition from the California Arts Council.

### **7. VOTING ITEM: Minutes from Previous Meetings**

Chair Messina-Captor presented the council meeting minutes for both April 19, 2024 and May 24, 2024, to the council for approval. There were no objections noted by the Council thus the minutes were approved.

### **8. PRESENTATION: CAC Panel & Adjudication Process**

Data and Equity Measures Manager Rebecca Ratzkin presented a PowerPoint on the current California Arts Council panel and adjudication process.

#### **Council Discussion**

Council discussed a number of points in response to the presentation including:

- Council inquired as to what the CAC is going to do to reach a more representative spread of panelists
- Geographically want to get a sense of where the panelists are from.
- Highlighted that 27% of panelists are from the Los Angeles region and this could be due to it being a more populous area.
- In September, there will be clarity on the panelists who were selected to review applications.
- There was a question about what percentage of panelists actually are chosen from the pool and if they can stay on more than one year
- Program Manager, Josy Miller, shared that there are 250 active panelists of the 916 approved pool.
- Deputy Director Kiburi clarified that at this point, the council had approved annual applications for panelists.
- Council expressed a desire to hear more about the guidelines that panelists are to follow as they would like to see the onboarding document and the implicit bias training documents that panelists receive.
- Council wanted to know what sort of feedback to panelists provide when they are surveyed.
- A request to see the framing of some applicant questions as they relate to CAC’s equity goals and scores related to demographics and applicants and reviewers and whether they correspond to the grants. Beyond average, would like to look at the median.
- A brief conversation occurred around honorariums. One member shared that the real value of serving as a panelist is in the networking opportunities which the panelists no longer have.

- Staff Member Ratzkin noted that follow up presentations on this process could be developed for council to build on the initial presentation delivered today.

## **9. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT**

### **Public Comment**

Transcriptions of live public comment are as follows; written submissions are attached at the end.

## **10. Chair's Report**

Chair Messina Captor read her report to the Council which read as follows:

Chair Report  
Meeting Aug. 1, 2024  
RMC

Thomas Ian Nicholas, actor said, "If we replace guns with guitars, then the world would be a concert."

The July 13 assassination attempt which killed one person and seriously injured others, by a 20-year-old clearly proves the quote. The importance and strength of art to irradicate violence and bring people together is never more relevant than at this moment. Our work at the CAC is never more important. Art provides youth with a sense of purpose, passion, discipline and direction. These principles encourage our youth to expand their talents, senses and lives. The work the CAC does helps organizations across the state to put art in the hands of youth not guns! It. Is the outreach and educational work of the CAC that supports artists and art organizations throughout the state to reach youth.

In the last eight months the CAC has seen growth and challenges. The council, staff and public worked diligently and quickly to let our voices be heard on budget cuts and the proposed move to Go-Biz. In the end budget cuts went from the proposed \$10M to \$5M. We remain an independent agency.

The work of all council committees remains strong. Through committees and staff, we are looking at our grant programs, allocations and how we can better serve CAC with the help of the legislature. As we look to our 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary to revise the CAC awards with the help of the legislature, we also want to increase the great work of the CAC in a productive and helpful way for our grantees. Adding 15 minutes to every council meeting will start today. This is a way for members to be able to communicate with each other and bring up topics they would like council to weigh in on.

We are actively researching potential new council members as others term off. This expansion throughout the state will help to round out the council. These are people prominent in their artistic fields and their patronage to the arts in the state.

I have been actively speaking with arts groups about Olympic Arts LA28. We want to see statewide arts participating in all areas during this time.

I appreciate all the work being done statewide by everyone on this dais and all the artists we support.

### **11. Executive Director's Report**

Director Brazell included her report to the Council in the Meeting Packet.

### **12. DISCUSSION: 2025 Council Meeting Dates**

The Council had a brief conversation around the proposed dates for council meetings in 2025. Chair Messina-Captor stressed the importance of having in-person attendance to satisfy quorum and reminded the Council that prior to 2020, council meetings did take place in person.

- Friday, January 31, 2025
- Friday, February 28, 2025
- Friday, March 28, 2025
- Friday, May 23, 2025
- Friday, June 20, 2025
- Friday, September 26, 2025
- Friday, October 24, 2025

Council Members noted the following:

- The location of meetings does determine the ability for some members to attend in person. Easily accessible locations are ideal for travel.
- Council members noted that an attempt to meet in areas that are often more difficult to travel to is a priority but not always feasible. They asked if there could be a way to strike a balance.
- Council members were reminded that prior to 2020, council meetings were all in person.

Director Brazell noted that having these dates confirmed allowed for greater flexibility in selecting locations and informing the public about these meetings in a timely manner. Director Brazell offered to follow up with a poll for the Council to gauge their attendance and request locations for next year's meetings.

### 13. COMMITTEE/ Ad Hoc Reports

Each committee presented their memos to the Council.

- Governance Committee - see [memo](#).
- Program Policy- see [memo](#). The Program Policy Committee shared that an internal presentation was developed from the applicant demographic data for 2024-2025 and that it would be beneficial for it to be shared with the rest of Council.
- Legislation Committee – see [memo](#).
- Strategic Framework Committee – see [memo](#).
- Equity Committee – see [memo](#).
- Partnerships (Ad Hoc) Committee – see [memo](#).
  - Partnerships committee members also highlighted that State-Local Partners of the California Arts Council should be on the list of important partnerships to the agency.
- Disability, Accessibility and Inclusion (Ad Hoc) Committee – no report provided

### 14. Council Open Discussion

The Chair allocated 15 minutes to the agenda to allow for an open discussion with the Council to raise any topics that had not been addressed or were worth revisiting.

Council Member Estrada revisited the topic of the panel process for the CAC. She expressed a desire to better understand the process and wanted to know what changes could be made to better support applicants from smaller organizations.

Council Member Clarke was interested in ways that the panelist pool could be more diversified. He suggested that having bilingual announcements for recruitment and adding more subcategories within the intake form could help.

Vice Chair Goodwin noted a gap between our knowledge from the pool of 900 people to 200.

Chair Messina-Captor thanked the field for their advocacy in minimizing cut from \$10M to \$5M.

Council Member Raynor noted the benefit of public comment is to get a sense of the landscape and shared that with advances in technology, she would like to see if the agency could provide a different way of doing grant applications like the UC system and a way to apply for multiple grants rather than having to fill out individual grants.

Council Member Hirabayashi shared his appreciation of all comments. Noted the value of panelists being able to meet in person. Would be open to some kind of hybrid conversation between panelists and grant review process.

Council Member Estrada commended the staff for doing a very complicated job. She noted that public comment is important and critical to the council's vote. Next council meeting is critical.



Council Member Raynor shared that the Equity Committee had created a shared definition of “equity” and would like to get some feedback from the council.

Council Member Raynor noted that as part of the allocations decision we should have a more in depth discussion with some guiding questions.

## **15. In Memoriam**

Vice Chair Goodwin- list of those honored in memoriam is provided at end of these minutes.

## **16. Closing Remarks**

Chair Messina Captor thanked the public for their turnout and their comments, and the Council and staff for their quick, hard work to put the meeting together.

## **17. Adjournment**

Chair Messina Captor adjourned the meeting at 3:19 p.m.

## **Public Comment**

### **LIVE PUBLIC COMMENT SUBMISSIONS – ALL ITEMS** **COUNCIL MEETING** **AUGUST 1, 2024**

#### **Rachel Osajima** **Alameda County Arts Commission**

Good morning. I’m Rachel. I am the executive director of Alameda County Arts Commission. It’s located on east side of San Francisco Bay area and includes 46 unincorporated areas. I’m also excited and proud to say that Oakland is the birthplace of Kamala Harris, our next president of the United States. I’m speaking on behalf of the state local partners throughout the state. I’d like to state appreciation for ongoing leadership. The California Arts Council established this. Throughout 44 years of SLP program has supported diverse arts organizations and arts culture system. County government ensures transparent process. We want to thank CAC and request the council maintains strong levels through this tight budget cycle.

#### **Jennifer Caballero** **California Association of Museums**

I’m executive director of the California Association of Museums, and I’m very pleased to be with you here. I’m normally based in Pasadena. I’m here to speak about the allocations and share a little bit of impossible news for the council. Scenario 3 is something you may appreciate. You may not be aware that the cultural endowment have \$27 million on the budget these years that they could apply for. There were scores of applications in place. 2021 budget

all was applied back on 4th weekend when nobody was paying attention. So this may help with the funding for state historical organizations.

**Emily Morales-Ortiz**  
**Artists Ink**

I'm executive founding director of Artists Ink in Salinas, multi-disciplinary arts organization that serves kinder to professional. I'm curious about individual approaches, something I'd like to bring to the forefront. This is a question. How does CAC determine priorities? I'm talking about equity as sustainability as far as how much money we're offering out to these organizations? While smaller grants are helpful, I remember being a recipient. Also the larger grants I think also have a huge impact to the organizations that are moving from that small into larger. And part to focus on is ability to provide equitable or sustainable jobs or gifting or grantees. The dent in helping provide full time or helping provide sustainable jobs accurately is not as realistic. I do think having smaller grants is crucial. However, leaving space for emerging larger or middle ground organizations to create sustainable jobs is crucial. So that's what my question is around that. Think about this while we're deciding.

**Alexandra Urbanowski**  
**SV Creates**

I'm CEO of Silicon Valley Creates, which is for Santa Clara county and state and partner. Includes the City of Gilroy up the road where we are now in Salinas. We have strong partnerships throughout the state program. We believe the state program should continue to be a primary strategy for supporting a diverse California. We request that the Council consider full funding for general operating support for SLPs and supporting that they reach every corner of the state. It encourages the Arts Council network to support the initiatives by supporting local communities and individuals throughout the state who support the CAC's vision. This is a challenging time, and we know have you have difficult decisions to make.

**Jim Brown**  
**Arts Council Santa Cruz County**

Good morning, chair and members of the council. I'm Jim Brown. And I have honor to serve as arts director of the Arts Council of Santa Cruz. Thank you for booking this on the central coast. I have spoken with several grantees and at their urging I would advocate against 20% cut to the memorandum. They're limited to a small number of applicants. Thank you for your work.

**Juan L. Sanchez**  
**Palenke Arts**

Buenos dias. I'm Juan Sanchez. Welcome to my county. We're excited to have you here to listen to us. The thing that came to mind is who do we serve and why? We lost track of that. We lose track of undocumented immigrants. They would not be able to write a grant that CAC puts out. Why did I bring that to attention? That's a narrow funnel. That's

terrifying. Perhaps really focus on folks that are – have – have had the organizations infrastructure. If you want to be fair and equitable, program modification of number 4. But also to continue advocate for preservation of jobs. Thank you for consideration. I appreciate you being here.

**Amy Kitchener**  
**Alliance for California Traditional Arts**

I'm a Folk and Traditional Art administering organization and I am honored to continue to steward the CAC program and now continuing in the role for 2024 cycle. We receive 343 applicants. 79 of these grantees received funding for the first time. We have \$903,000 in requested funding. We received a whopping 383 applications with 3.4 million representing a 12% increase with the CAC staff. I hope you can take these numbers into the ask of your analysis. Since year one and year two are -- implication of reducing program funding will have potentially greater impact on the community that has been underfunded.

**Cat Harper**  
**Steinbeck Center**

I'm the assistant director to the national director at the Steinbeck Center in Salinas. As museums we were lucky to make it out alive. We decided we were lucky to be having a western collective. Makes an introduction to art to children to as the county in photography. So the smaller grants you speak of are helpful for an organization like ours. Just being able to fund these projects will be a huge gift to achieve those goals. Thank you for your time.

**Julie Baker**  
**California for the Arts**

I'm a CAC grantee. These are difficult decisions to make. Use your own decision-making tool. It may make sense to look at who each serves in demographics as much as you designate of Prop 209.

We also believe the 100,000 for Cultural Districts was left over. We need to make it clear to the Governor that the demand and need is huge. We need to include funding for this agency in coming years.

**Susie Tanner**  
**Theatre Workers Project**

Hi. My name is Susie Tanner. A long-time appreciative grantee of the California Arts Council. And we serve primarily incarcerated adults and at-risk youth. That was heavily impacted, and we ask you to consider spreading the wealth as possible. Even if it is less, it allows us to bring forth. Please consider spreading the wealth. I appreciate your time. Yield my time to someone else.

## **Live General Public Comment:**

### **Jennifer Caballero California Association of Museums**

Good afternoon. I'm Jennifer with the California Association of Museums. I wanted to speak to the quality of anti-bias training I experienced as I was being trained. That was useful to me, and I carried that over. I spoke to panelists having a heavy lift during that time period. You want to take it seriously. You don't do it for the \$300. You do it for knowledge and sector. You don't get that check for many, many months. I would say, to the extent that council can broaden the number of people involved. If you're continually not accepting over and over and over from folks who are maybe in places where they're not used to making professional decisions, when they're selected as panelists they feel accepted, for hope of it, and make it overall a manageable lift. I would say the quality of what was presented to me and what I experienced, to me it was top notch.

### **Jesus Ramirez Radio Bilingue**

Good afternoon, members of the Council. I'm Jesus Ramirez from Radio Bilingue, a Latino public radio station. I'm here to share our appreciation to the California Arts Council for the support they have provided with the Latino Community Foundation to produce the original contest, it gave us a unique opportunity to work with artists to receive hands-on training. This collaboration resulted in Spanish speaking youth engaging in the project. Thank you so much for the opportunity.

### **Jennifer Laine San Benito County Arts Council**

Good afternoon. I am Jennifer Laine, and I serve as executive director of the San Bernardino based in Hollister, California. To respond to higher education and, importantly, arts and culture, my community is home to the collective of artisans, a creative corps program, LatinX low rider culture, muralists, and so much more. We're home to the assembly speaker Rivas and couldn't be more proud to have him represent us. We have a dual role as -- we deliver 185 arts classes per week in local private schools. We also support artists with capacity building. We have no direct allocation for the arts. So state funding can be critical. If you're central coast, we've worked together. We distributed the state funding program. With support from the California Department of Transportation and public arts funds we help regional programs including artists and murals, public arts, which will be enjoyed for some time to come. We are doing a lot of work through data collection. And I'm pleased you want to see data-informed decisions. In times of limited funding, how else can we help to support aside from funding capacity building, communicating?

**Robin McKee**  
**Monterey Museum of Art**

Good afternoon. Thank you for this insightful day. I'm manager of events and community cultivation. We partner with many arts groups, music, arts, music, muralists, dancers, in the arts with a variety of programs throughout the year. We'd be happy to give you data collection and tracking of what we have coming through our doors. And thank you for all of your insights.

**Cara Goger**  
**Mariposa County Arts Council**

Good afternoon. I'm Cara Goger of Mariposa County Arts Council. Mariposa County is like a city block. We're very much a grassroots organization and we're providing direct programming and providing support to local and regional arts. I just wanted to appreciate the CAC, and stress the importance of geographic equity. And we're working in same spaces in a response to our community. This being the case in these moments where funding is limited, can we inform each other about other opportunities? There's a lot of rich data. There are many grassroots organizations that aren't here. And here I am representing one small community and want to do that.

**Rachel Osajima**  
**Alameda County Arts Commission**

I'm Rachel. I'm the executive director of the Alameda County Arts Commission. And I wanted to provide comments. We have been an SLP during the period of SLP program in 1980. One notable faculty is Kamala Harris. My organization has 250 grantee organizations. The ACAC does support grassroots organizations. Thousands of artists through organizations receive support. I just wanted to clearly prove this quote. The importance in strength of artists to radiate through a lens is never more relevant than at this moment.

**WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT SUBMISSIONS – ALL ITEMS**  
**COUNCIL MEETING**  
**AUGUST 1, 2024**

- **Mary Crescenzo (She/Her/Hers)**  
**Arts strategist/practitioner, Los Angeles County**  
**RE: Agenda Item 10. General Public Comment**

Does the Council address and allocate funds/grants for the training of caregivers, formal and informal, in arts engagement by arts strategist/practitioner professionals in the field of arts engagement and dementia? Training and the use of arts engagement within this segment of the older adult population, with caregivers, those younger adults with early onset dementia, and self-care for those living with this disorder is often lacking if not non-existent. This segment

of the population is often forgotten when it comes to the needs and desires of carers and those cared for in the context of connection and communication through self-expression to enrich quality of life through the arts within this community.

- **Julie Domeny (She/Her/Hers), Yolo County**  
**RE: Agenda Item 7. DISCUSSION: FY 2024-2025 Award Allocations**

Hello. I would like to comment on the CA Arts Council's award allocation protocol. What I see is a focus on funding arts organizations at the expense of individual artists. How does CA Art's Council justify these multiple administrative costs when there are efficient ways to manage individual grant awards without incurring the multiple administrative costs?

- **Maurice (Morie) Williams (He/Him/His)**  
**T3 TRIPLE THREAT YOUTH MENTORS, San Diego County**  
**RE: Agenda Item 9. PRESENTATION: CAC Panel & Adjudication Process**

On 7/8/24, T3 Triple Threat was informed that our Creative Youth Development application was not considered because we did not "meet the requirement of good standing with the California Franchise Tax Board."

In April 2024, T3 was planning to apply for a county grant requiring grantees provide screenshots of Secretary of State and Attorney General (AG) websites showing compliance. T3 learned it was noncompliant and immediately corrected the issue. On 5/6/24, we received a Letter of Cleared Suspension from the AG, emailed to CAC 7/29/24.

The CAC's equity goal is "to create a sense of belonging that is so palpable, it is universally experienced" and "pursuit of justice in this arena benefits everyone by taking a critical eye to systems of oppression – systems that undercut fairness across multiple demographics, conditions, and experiences". Continuing, "by prioritizing attention to racial equity, everyone will benefit because racial injustice is the most pervasive and entrenched form of injustice permeating the institutions and systems that everyone must access."

How does rejecting an application without opportunity to address/correct an issue by a small arts organization (budget under \$50,000) FOUNDED and DIRECTED by a black artist serving children from historically under-resourced communities advance the Council's Racial Equity Statement? How does this advance the arts and arts learning for youth T3 serves who otherwise would not have an opportunity to engage with arts?

- **Jacqueline Dandeneau (She/Her/Hers)**  
**Playhouse Arts, Humboldt County**  
**Current or Former Grantee: Artists in Communities, Artists in Schools, Arts and Public Media, Arts Education Exposure, Arts Integration Training, California Creative Corps, Creative California Communities, Creative Youth Development (formerly Youth Arts Action), Impact Projects, Local Impact, Statewide and Regional Networks**  
**RE: Agenda Item 9. PRESENTATION: CAC Panel & Adjudication Process**

Thank you for your dedication to the arts in our State. I understand the struggle of reorganizing the agency, have been patient with the process and appreciate your service.

It has been very distressing to have been cut out of critical funding for our rural low-income community due to a clerical error. I understand the sheer volume of applications you receive, but to have two proposals from our community disqualified in this funding round is devastating.

One was from Kee Ch Ee Nar, a nonprofit of the Yurok tribe, which was disqualified as it could not be found on the Secretary of State database. Most likely an error in filling out the registration postcard from the State.

Our application was disqualified because I gave the email and contact name and not the address of the schools, not the physical address.

Agreed these are administrative errors, and the application called for them and we were remiss. But the punishment our youth will bear far outweighs our administrative crime.

It is my understanding that the CAC wants to support rural, LBGTQ, and BIPOC organizations, but this kind of administrative punishment counters that narrative and in fact weeds us out for our administrative shortcomings.

Many of our communities are struggling with suicide, opioid addiction, high ACES scores, mental health, growing houselessness and funding cuts and administration tends to fall to the bottom of the list.

I urge you to reconsider CYD-24-23192 and AE-EXP-24-23191 for funding.

- **Jason Ditzian (He/Him/His)**  
**Narluga Arts, Alameda County**  
**RE: Agenda Item 9. PRESENTATION: CAC Panel & Adjudication Process**

I am writing on behalf of artist/applicant, Latanya D. Tigner who is currently traveling in the Congo. We are seeking to address a glaring equity issue with regards to her organization's

CAC Impact application being disqualified due to the fiscal sponsor (Dimension's Dance) interpreting the guidelines incorrectly and putting the wrong grant period end date in the FS agreement. The organization, Dancing Cyphers is a treasured African-diasporic dance and culture org based in Oakland who has faced significant institutional barriers to funding. Being disqualified for a technical mistake made by the fiscal sponsor would serve no purpose other than to add to a decades-long history of discrimination and trauma. In the past, CAC grant administrators have allowed applicants to fix mistakes made on applications/contracting. However, in this specific case, administrators Natalie Peeples and Kristin Margolis wrote back after three weeks denying our request to fix the mistake. They offered no justification why the FS document could not be updated. This is a devastating blow to the applicant and a clear equity issue that we're hoping CAC can rectify. The Impact guidelines do not specifically say that the date in the FS agreement needs to be the CAC grant period vs. the actual project period. We are desperately hoping there is a way to rectify this situation. Last year, Dancing Cyphers was a top scorer and received their first ever Impact and GenOp funding.

**Jennifer Visick (She/Her/Hers, They/Them/Theirs)**  
**Community Youth Orchestra of Southern California, Orange County**

Hello, I am on the board of directors for a small local non-profit youth orchestra, CYOSC. In the past, the CAC grant program has helped us keep our tuition accessibly low while still holding high musical and educational standards. Recently, when looking at available grants on your website, it appears that we are no longer eligible to apply because all of the newly available grants were restricted to larger organizations that had (to our eyes) huge operating budgets. This seems oddly counterproductive to us, for why would you only support large organizations and not smaller ones?

We ask that you please consider allowing smaller organizations to qualify for grants again, and if there is a cycle where different sizes of organizations are allowed to apply in different years, could there be an explanation of this on your website, so that we can plan for when we might apply again?

Thank you for your time and for all you do to support the arts in our California!

J. Visick

**Victor Mendoza**  
**Solano Symphony Orchestra, Solano County**

**RE: Agenda Item. 7. DISCUSSION: FY 2024-2025 Award Allocations,**  
**9. PRESENTATION: CAC Panel & Adjudication Process, 15. Council Open Discussion**



Thank you for your time.

1) As only 240 out of 900 individuals are selected for panels, is it possible for an individual to shadow those discussions of grant selection? As the council members discussed, it gives those individuals an advantage of seeing how successful grants are written. Especially when the organization I volunteer for is a small organization.

2) I just joined the symphony's board one month ago and I agree with comments about the obstacles for smaller organizations to compete with larger organizations when it comes to grants/funding. It is a difficult job to be equitable, but I will say, our organization is funded by pure donations and ad sales and not from other major players. This organization works hard to go "paycheck to paycheck" to ensure the community/youth have exposure to the classics, but also to provide new opportunities and lessons. This organization is comprised of members from the community and fights to continue to give back to the community. When making your votes, please consider this comment as to not taking away possible funding from organizations such as ours. Thank you again! Please reach out if you have any questions or for any advice.

Respectfully,

Victor Mendoza

**Paulette Lynch (She/Her/Hers)**  
**Monterey County Pops!, Monterey County**

**RE: Agenda Item. 7. DISCUSSION: FY 2024-2025 Award Allocations**

During my fifteen years of service to our community as Executive Director of the Arts Council for Monterey County, I found the CAC to be an extraordinary thought partner and funder for the programs that made the difference for our very diverse region. In the past few years, I have been servings as the Executive Director of Monterey County Pops! -- we have been very fortunate to have CAC support for our music education programs that take place in the areas of our county with the greatest needs and fewest cultural resources close at hand.

To handle your problem of growing needs and shrinking resources, I urge you to consider two principal strategies as you refine your priorities and shape your budget for next year:

1. Prioritize general operating support (versus project),
2. Prioritize mid-range organizations -- just large enough to need paid staff and still small enough to need significant support to hire the right staff -- especially those that have the background and capacity to reach those with the greatest needs/least access to great programs nearby.

And then, re-set as needed the following year!

Thank you for your inclusive process. I really appreciate your thoughtfulness.

**Benita Martinez Sosa**  
**Ventura County**

**RE: Agenda Item. 7. DISCUSSION: FY 2024-2025 Award Allocations**

Buenos días, mi nombre es Benita. Soy artista textil zapoteca. El año pasado, recibí la beca de Culturas Vivas de ACTA, por parte del programa de Artes y Tradiciones Folklóricas del Consejo de las Artes de California. Fue la primera vez que apliqué y recibí fondos de este Consejo. Mi arte tradicional tiene sus raíces en el tejido zapoteco de Teotitlán del Valle, Oaxaca, el cual utiliza lana de borrego y algodón con tintes naturales. Con esta beca, he tenido la oportunidad de comprar materiales que son muy costosos, realizar demostraciones en diversos lugares, y hacer una pagina web para promover mi trabajo. Esto no solo ha mejorado la calidad de mis productos, sino que también me ha permitido compartir y enseñar estas técnicas tradicionales a la comunidad. Por esta razón, se les suplica que no rebajen los recursos para el fondo del programa de las Artes y Tradiciones Folklóricas y que lo financien a la totalidad de lo presupuestado y contratado. Es una gran oportunidad para artistas como yo, que no tenemos fácil acceso a otro tipo de becas que no sean específicamente para las artes tradicionales. Quitar este tipo de apoyo tendría un impacto significativo, ya que limitaría nuestras oportunidades de crecimiento y visibilidad como artistas. Mi familia y yo estamos sumamente agradecidos con esta beca que recibimos y quisiéramos la oportunidad de volver a solicitar otra beca. Muchas gracias.

**Emily Klion (She/Her/Hers)**  
**San Francisco Youth Theatre (SFYT), San Francisco County**

SFYT is appealing a decision to disqualify its Gen Ops grant application. I hoped to make a public comment last week on what feels to me like an unfair exclusion of our grant proposal. My appeal is based on the fact that SFYT's application was denied on a small technical error. On the application deadline I realized I had attached the wrong document that was labeled a letter of support in the application. I quickly emailed the Genops program manager before the application deadline, attaching the correct letter, but was informed that since the technical deadline was closed, I was out of luck. I had no idea there were two deadlines—technical and application.

This is especially frustrating as last year, SFYT narrowly missed out on Gen OP funding due to the CAC's change in funding priorities for mid-sized organizations.

I was a CAC panelist years ago, and was impressed by how much the CAC worked to fund all applicants, even those with incomplete application. In this case, I submitted everything before the deadline, even the missing document. You all know how much time and resources these grants take -- a small, correctable mistake should not disqualify us or any organization. I listened to the discussion on equity in panels, and felt that SFYT's exclusion is not in the spirit of the CAC's grant practices. It seems incredibly unfair to deny even considering our application this year. There should be an appeal process for these types of technical problems.

## **In Memoriam**

August 1, 2024

Presented by Vice-Chair Goodwin

"Their art was their legacy, and it will continue to move and inspire others."

—Anonymous

April 15, 2024. Raymond Michael Patlán, an internationally esteemed Chicano muralist once dubbed mayor of San Francisco's Balmy Alley, died in Oakland. He was 77. Friends remember Patlán as a "dynamic force." His powerful, politically outspoken murals about labor, the Central American crisis and inequality have not only adorned the walls of the Mission District since the 1980s, but spread internationally and intergenerationally as he mentored younger artists in his craft.

April 23, 2024. Terry Carter was an Emmy-nominated actor and director. He appeared in shows including *Battlestar Galactica*, *McCloud*, *The Phil Silvers Show* and *The Fall Guy*. Carter directed an episode of *American Masters*, which earned him his Emmy nomination. He can be seen in films including "Foxy Brown," "Benji," "Hamilton" and "Company of Killers." Carter served two terms as a Governor of the Television Academy.

April 23, 2024. Ray Chan was an art director and production designer who worked in the art department of television and film sets and was best known for his work on Marvel productions. He worked on series including *The Falcon and the Winter Soldier* and *Screen Two*. Chan worked on countless movies including "Avengers: Endgame," "Doctor Strange," "The Guardians of the Galaxy," "Thor: The Dark World," "Fool's Gold" and "Children of Men."

April 25, 2024. Marla Adams was an American actress best known for her television roles. She appeared on over 200 episodes of *The Young and the Restless*, in which she was awarded a Daytime Emmy. Adams can be seen in series including *Days of Our Lives*, *Generations*, *Emergency!* and *The Love Boat*. She appeared in television movies including "Undercover," "The President's Man" and "Maybe Baby."

April 28, 2024. Alan Scarfe was a British actor who appeared in television series and in films. He can be seen in shows including *Seven Days*, *The Outer Limits*, *Mysterious Island*, *Star*

*Trek: The Next Generation, One Life to Live* and *Tour of Duty*. Scarfe appeared in films including “Lethal Weapon 3,” “Double Impact,” “The Wrong Guy” and “Once a Thief

April 28, 2024. Zack Norman was an American actor and comedian, who appeared in television series and films. He can be seen in shows including *The Nanny, Baywatch, The Flash* and *The A-Team*. Norman appeared in films including “Romancing the Stone,” “Cadillac Man,” “Festival in Cannes” and “Chief Zabu.”

May 2, 2024. Susan Buckner was an American actress who performed in television series and films. She played roles in shows including *When the Whistle Blows, The Brady Bunch Variety Hour, Starsky and Hutch* and *The Love Boat*. Buckner appeared in films including “Grease,” “Deadly Blessing” and “The Amazing Howard Hughes.”

May 6, 2024. Ian Gelder was a British actor who appeared in television series and films. He can be seen in shows including *Games of Thrones, His Dark Materials, Mr Selfridge, Doctor Who* and *Fallen Angel*. Gelder appeared in features including “Pope Joan,” “Surge” and “King Ralph.”

May 12, 2024. Mark Damon was an American actor and producer who entered the industry starring in television shows and films. He can be seen in series including *Cavalcade of America, Panic!, Alfred Hitchcock Presents, The Californians* and *Zorro*. Damon appeared in films including “House of Usher,” “Golden Chameleon,” “The Longest Day,” “The Party Crashers” and “Life Begins at 17.” He went on to produce dozens of films including “Monster,” “The Lost Boys,” “2 Guns,” “11:14” and “Lone Survivor.”

May 16, 2024. Dabney Coleman was an American actor. Coleman’s television roles include the title characters of *Buffalo Bill* (1983–1984) and *The Slap Maxwell Story* (1987–1988), as well as Burton Fallin on *The Guardian* (2001–2004), the voice of Principal Peter Prickly on *Recess* (1997–2001), and Louis “The Commodore” Kaestner on *Boardwalk Empire* (2010–2011). He won one Primetime Emmy Award from six nominations and one Golden Globe Award from three nominations.

May 17, 2024. James Hubbell Famed Julian-based artist has died at the age of 92, his family announced on Monday. Hubbell is internationally known for his fantastical organic-architecture house and adjacent studios located in the mountain community of Julian, His artwork ranged from mosaics, wrought iron railings and gates to stained glass and sculptures, many gracing San Diego homes, churches, and [public spaces](#).

May 19, 2024. Richard Foronjy, an actor of unparalleled talent and versatility, has bid farewell to the stage and screen, leaving behind a legacy that will always be a part of cinematic history. Best known for his iconic character roles in television series such as *Under Suspicion, The Big*

*Easy*, and *18 Wheels of Justice*, and films such as “Serpico,” “Midnight Run,” and “Carlito’s Way,” Richard captivated audiences with his commanding presence and innate charisma.

May 27, 2024. Bill Walton was a Hall of Fame NBA player turned sportscaster who made numerous television appearances. He has made cameos in shows including *American Dad!*, *Less Than Perfect*, *One on One*, *Snoops* and *The Sentinel*. Walton can be seen in films including “He Got Game,” “Little Nicky,” “Forget Paris” and “Uncle Drew.”

June 8, 2024. Chet Walker was a former basketball star who played in the NBA and later became an Emmy-winning producer. He produced films including “The Glass Shield,” “Freedom Road” and “A Mother’s Courage: The Mary Thomas Story” which earned an Emmy in 1990.

June 11, 2024. Tony Mordente was known for directing dozens of episodes of popular television shows. He served as the director for shows including *7th Heaven*, *Goodtime Girls*, *Busting Loose*, *Hardcastle and McCormick*, *Easy Street*, *Rhoda* and *Walker, Texas Ranger*

June 11, 2024. Howard Fineman was a journalist and television commentator who mainly analyzed and reported political news and conversations. He served as a consultant on several episodes of *The President Show* and made appearances on *The Daily Show*, *Alpha House* and *Boogie Man: The Lee Atwater Story*. Fineman made regular appearances on *Hardball with Chris Mathews*, *The Rachel Maddow Show* and *The Last Word with Lawrence O’Donnell*

June 11, 2024. Tony Lo Bianco was an actor who appeared in numerous television series and films. He can be seen in episodes of *Palace Guard*, *Jessie*, *Police Story*, *Law & Order*, *N.Y.P.D.* and *Murder, She Wrote*. Bianco appeared in movies including “Nixon,” “The French Connection,” “The Honeymoon Killers,” “Kill the Irishman,” “The Seven-Ups” and “Somewhere in Queens.”

June 12, 2024. Sidney Felsen, beloved co-founder of influential Los Angeles printmaking studio Gemini GEL, has died, aged 99. Felsen was also a trained artist and prolific photographer, who documented his close contact with the artists who worked at Gemini. Felsen founded Gemini GEL in 1966, and he continued to manage the business, coming into the office nearly every day, until roughly a month before his death. Considered to be one of the most innovative printmaking studios in the history of American art, Gemini’s early decades included collaborations with Josef Albers, Jasper Johns, Ellsworth Kelly, Roy Lichtenstein, Claes Oldenburg, Robert Rauschenberg and Frank Stella, among others,

June 12, 2024. Ron Simons was an American actor and producer who appeared in television series and movies and exclusively produced films and Broadway productions. He can be seen in shows including *The Defenders*, *Daredevil*, *Law & Order*, *The Resident* and *Succession*. Simons appeared in movies including “Night Catches Us,” “27 Dresses,” “After the Wedding” and “Wolves.” He served as an executive producer on films including “Multiverse,” “The Seagull,” “King Cobra,” “I Miss You” and “Gun Hill Road.”

June 13, 2024. Benji Gregory was an American child actor who also voiced characters on animated productions. He appeared in television series including *ALF*, *Punky Brewster*, *The Twilight Zone*, *The A-Team*, *Murphy Brown* and *T.J. Hooker*. He voiced characters in animated shows including *Fantastic Max*, *Back to the Future* and *Pound Puppies*. Gregory appeared in movies including “Thompson’s Last Run,” “Jumpin’ Jack Flash,” “Alf Loves a Mystery,”

June 17, 2024. Merlinda Valentina Espinosa-Torres, singer and guitarist, made her unexpected transition at the young age of 38. The sudden death of this local artist has shaken the music, theatrical and arts community in the Central Valley.

June 20, 2024. Taylor Wily was a Hawaiian actor who appeared in over 170 episodes as ‘Kamekona’ in the hit series, *Hawaii Five-0*. He can be seen in other television shows including *Magnum P.I.*, *North Shore*, *Marker*, *One West Waikiki* and *MacGyver*. Wily also appeared in films including “Radical” and “Forgetting Sarah Marshall.”

June 20, 2024. Donald Sutherland was an Emmy-winning actor who starred and appeared in countless shows and films. He can be seen in series including *Commander in Chief*, *Dirty Sexy Money*, *The Pillars of the Earth*, *Crossing Lines*, *Trust* and *Lawmen: Bass Reeves*. He appeared in TV movies including “The Eastmans,” “Path to War,” “The Big Heist,” “Uprising” and “Citizen X,” which earned him a Primetime Emmy.

June 23, 2024. Pat Colbert was an American actress who appeared in television series and films. She was a regular on the show *Dallas* and can be seen in other series including *Sisters*, *True Colors*, *Flamingo Road*, *Capitol*, *Knots Landing* and *The Fall Guy*

June 24, 2024. Joan Benedict Steiger was an American actress who appeared in many television shows and films. She can be seen in series including *Fantasy Island*, *The Smith Family*, *Apple’s Way*, *Days of Our Lives* and *The Incredible Hulk*.

June 25, 2024. Bill Cobbs was an actor who appeared in many television series and films. He is recognized for his performances in shows including *The Slap Maxwell Story*, *Homerom*, *The Gregory Hines Show*, *Go On* and *I’ll Fly Away*. He made appearances in series including *Touched by an Angel*, *The West Wing*, *Six Feet Under*, *Star Trek: Enterprise*, *ER* and *The Sopranos*. Cobbs can be seen in films including “Demolition Man,” “Air Bud,” “Night at the Museum,” “The Hudsucker Proxy,” “That Thing You Do!” and “Oz the Great and Powerful.”

June 27, 2024. Martin Mull was an Emmy-nominated actor and screenwriter. He could be seen in series including *Roseanne*, *Mary Hartman*, *America 2-Night*, *His & Hers*, *Dads*, *Sabrina the Teenage Witch*, *The Cool Kids* and *The Ranch*. He voiced characters in animated series including *Danny Phantom*, *Recess*, *Family Guy*, *Bob’s Burgers*, *American Dad!* and *Family Dog*. He appeared in films including “Clue,” “FM,” “Mr. Mom,” “Sunset Limousine,” “The Player,” “Ski Patrol,” “Mrs. Doubtfire,” “Relative Strangers” and “Reading Writing & Romance.”

June 27, 2024. Larry Fuente, the Mendocino artist who put a million beads on his 1960 Cadillac, has died at 76. Anytime Fuente would appear driving “Mad Cad,” that extravagantly

glam 1960 Cadillac, he was the star of the show “Looking at Larry’s art car... the one he drove up Main Street at the end of every Fourth of July parade, registered or not—was like reading a Tom Robbins novel,” said Jennifer Kreger, a Fort Bragg physician. “When I’m shown a chain of Mardi Gras beads next to a Samurai sword and a glass slipper, I’m reminded... not all of life is tidily categorized, commercial or expectable.”

June 26, 2024. Richard Emerson Todd, affectionately known as Ric, passed away on Thursday, June 20, 2024, leaving behind a vibrant legacy marked by a deep love for the arts. He was the director of cultural events at Chula Vista from 1999-2015. He acted as the Artist in Residence at St. Paul Cathedral, served on the board of the California Ballet Company, and was a generous patron and donor to the Bonita Museum and the California Coastal Commission. His love for art was not only a career but a lifestyle, one that was woven into the very fabric of his being.

June 29, 2024. Doug Sheehan was an American actor who appeared in countless television shows and films. He is most recognizable for his performances in over 200 episodes of *General Hospital* and over 100 episodes of *Knots Landing*.

July 1, 2024. Robert Towne was a writer and producer who began his career in television and went on to write films. He wrote episodes of television series including *The Llyod Bridges Show*, *The Outer Limits*, *Breaking Point*, *The Man from U.N.C.L.E.* and *Welcome to the Basement*. He produced several episodes of the hit series *Mad Men* along with other films including “Bedroom Window” and “Personal Best.” Towne is widely recognized for writing movies including “Chinatown,” *The Last Detail*,” “Tequila Sunrise,” “Mission: Impossible,” “Mission Impossible II” and “Ask the Dust.”

July 7, 2024. Dea Hurston — a playwright, philanthropist, and advocate for people of color in the theater space. *Dea Hurston, dies at age 73* Hurston never planned on becoming a writer. She discovered her talent after her cancer diagnosis and an accident which left her immobile. Her musical, “1222 Oceanfront: A Black Family Christmas” debuted in 2021. “Most of my characters are Black people, and I try to write them so that they are in normal, everyday situations. I do not write trauma plays. I want to write about Black people doing normal things and having normal struggles and normal joys,” Hurston said. The [Dea Hurston New Village Arts Center](#) is believed to be the first arts center in the United States, outside of New York City, to be named for a Black woman in the past 50 years.

July 11, 2024. Shelley Duvall was an actress best known for her performances in television and films. She appeared in episodes of *Baretta*, *The Twilight Zone*, *The Ray Bradbury Theatre*, *Frasier*, *Maggie Winters*, *Love, American Style* and *Cannon*. She executive produced series including *Faerie Tale Theatre*, *Tall Tales & Legends*, *Nightmare Classics*, *Shelley Duvall’s Bedtime Stories* and *Mrs. Piggle-Wiggle*.

July 12, 2024. Karola Ruth Westheimer was a German and American sex therapist and talk show host. She appeared on many television shows including *Between the Lions*, *Quantum Leap*, *Ally McBeal*, *Head Cases*, *Tall Tales & Legends* and *Moonlighting*. She appeared in

television movies including “Lipshitz Saves the World,” “One Woman or Two” and “Forever, Lulu

July 12, 2024. Bill Viola, Celebrated Video Artist Who Played With Time, Dies at 73. Inspired by Renaissance painters, he explored life’s passages — birth, death, romantic love, redemption and rebirth — in often moving, often thrilling exhibitions.

July 13, 2024. Shannen Doherty was an American actress who appeared in many television series and films. She was best known for her regular roles in *Charmed* and *Beverly Hills, 90210* and can be seen in other series including *Our House*, *Little House on the Prairie*, *North Shore*, *Father Murphy*, *The Secret of Lost Creek*, and *Robert Kennedy and His Times*.

July 13, 2024. Richard Simmons was an American fitness guru, public figure and performer. He made many cameos on television shows including *General Hospital*, *Arrested Development*, *CHiPs*, *Evening Shade*, *All My Children* and *Fame*.

July 13, 2024. James B. Sikking was an Emmy-nominated American actor who appeared in several television shows and films. He can be seen in series including *Hill Street Blues*, *Doogie Howser, M.D.*, *Brooklyn South*, *The F.B.I.*, *Invasion America*, *Combat!* and *The Outer Limits*. Sikking appeared in television movies including “The Last Hurrah,” “Kill Me If you Can,” “Young Joe, The Forgotten Kennedy,” “Never Con a Killer” and “Outrage.” He appeared in films including “Fever Pitch,” “Outland,” “The Pelican Brief,” “Wild About Harry,” “Star Trek III: The Search for Spock” and “Ordinary People.”

July 15, 2024. Whitney Rydbeck was an actor who appeared in television series and films. He was one of the original crash test dummies in the widely known public service campaign highlighting seat belt safety. Rydbeck can be seen in episodes of *Simon & Simon*, *Lassie*, *Living Single*, *Scrubs*, *7th Heaven*, *Sisters*, *Star Trek: The Next Generation*, *M\*A\*S\*H* and *Murder, She Wrote*. He appeared in movies including “1941,” “Friday the 13th Part VI: Jason Lives,” “Murder of Innocence,” “Striking Resemblance” and “What I Did For Love.”

July 18, 2024. Esta TerBlanche was a South African actress who performed in television shows in the United States and South Africa. She was best known for her regular role in *All My Children* (110 episodes) and can be seen in other series including *The Syndicate*, *Spin City*, *K-T.V.* and *Egoli: Place of Gold*.

July 18, 2024. Lou Dobbs was a producer, writer and commentator who was best known for his talk show series including *Moneyline*, *Lou Dobbs Tonight*, *Fox Business Tonight* and *Managing with Lou Dobbs*. Dobbs was the host of *The Great America Show* on iHeartRadio and former talk show host of *Lou Dobbs Radio*.

July 18, 2024. Bob Newhart’s career has spanned 50 years, several successful television series, fourteen feature films and millions of albums sold worldwide and he is the recipient of many honors, including the prestigious Mark Twain Prize for American Humor, presented by the Kennedy Center and a designation as an American Master by PBS.



July 20, 2024. Mike Heslin was an American actor who appeared in television series and films. He can be seen in shows including *The Influencers*, *Lioness*, *Younger*, *7 Deadly Sins* and *House Sitting*. Heslin appeared in films including "I Miss You," "You Are Never Alone," "I Dream Too Much," "The Holiday Proposal Plan" and "Boy\*Friends."

July 22, 2024, Sika Dwimfo Artist, master jeweler, community activist and business owner, referred to as the "Godfather of Leimert Park," died Saturday. He was 83.