

September 16, 2008 Special Meeting

BENICIA CITY COUNCIL

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

City Council Chambers

September 16, 2008

5:30 P.M. – 7:00 P.M.

Times set forth for the agenda items are estimates. Items may be heard before or after the times designated.

I. CALL TO ORDER (5:30 P.M.):

II. CONVENE OPEN SESSION:

A. ROLL CALL

B. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

C. REFERENCE TO THE FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS OF PUBLIC

III. OPPORTUNITY FOR PUBLIC COMMENT:

A. WRITTEN

B. PUBLIC COMMENT

IV. CLOSED SESSION:

A. Conference with REAL PROPERTY NEGOTIATOR

(Government Code Section §54956.8)

Property: Right-of-way on Military West at I-780 Freeway

Negotiating Parties: City Manager/Public Works Director

Under Negotiation: Purchase of right-of-way on Military West at I-780 Freeway

B. CONFERENCE WITH LEGAL COUNSEL - ANTICIPATED LITIGATION

Significant exposure to litigation pursuant to subdivision (b) of Section 54956.9

Number of potential cases: # 1

V. RECONVENE OPEN SESSION:

VI. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS (6:00 P.M.):

A. Consideration of a Cultural Arts Commission.

This study session is an opportunity for the Council to review the need for a Cultural Arts Commission. Several alternatives for addressing this need will be presented for the Council's consideration. Examples of how arts commissions in other cities are structured will also be provided for the Council's review.

Recommendation: Discuss and provide direction to staff.

VII. ADJOURNMENT (7:00 P.M.):

Public Participation

The Benicia City Council welcomes public participation.

Pursuant to the Brown Act, each public agency must provide the public with an opportunity to speak on any matter within the subject matter jurisdiction of the agency and which is not on the agency's agenda for that meeting. The City Council allows speakers to speak on non-agendized matters under public comment, and on agendized items at the time the agenda item is addressed at the meeting. Comments are limited to no more than 5 minutes per speaker. By law, no action may be taken on any item raised during the public comment period although informational answers to questions may be given and matters may be referred to staff for placement on a future agenda of the City Council.

Should you have material you wish to enter into the record, please submit it to the City Manager.

Disabled Access

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact Valerie Ruxton, the ADA Coordinator, at (707) 746-4211. Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to this meeting.

Meeting Procedures

All items listed on this agenda are for Council discussion and/or action. In accordance with the Brown Act, each item is listed and includes, where appropriate, further description of the item and/or a recommended action. The posting of a recommended action does not limit, or necessarily indicate, what action may be taken by the City Council.

Pursuant to Government Code Section 65009, if you challenge a decision of the City Council in court, you may be limited to raising only those issues you or someone else raised at the public hearing described in this notice, or in written correspondence delivered to the City Council at, or prior to, the public hearing. You may also be limited by the ninety (90) day statute of limitations in which to challenge in court certain administrative decisions and orders (Code of Civil Procedure 1094.6) to file and serve a petition for administrative writ of mandate challenging any final City decisions regarding planning or zoning.

The decision of the City Council is final as of the date of its decision unless judicial review is initiated pursuant to California Code of Civil Procedures Section 1094.5. Any such petition for judicial review is subject to the provisions of California Code of Civil Procedure Section 1094.6.

Public Records

The agenda packet for this meeting is available at the City Manager's Office and the Benicia Public Library during regular working hours. To the extent feasible, the packet is also available on the City's web page at www.ci.benicia.ca.us under the heading "Agendas and Minutes." Public records related to an open session agenda item that are distributed after the agenda packet is prepared are available before the meeting at the City Manager's Office located at 250 East L Street, Benicia, or at the meeting held in the Council Chambers. If you wish to submit written information on an agenda item, please submit to the City Clerk as soon as possible so that it may be distributed to the City Council.

/Agenda0916.08 Special Meeting

 [special meeting cultural arts.pdf](#)

AGENDA ITEM
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING: SEPTEMBER 16, 2008
STUDY SESSION ITEM

DATE : August 20, 2008
TO : Mayor and City Council
FROM : City Manager
SUBJECT : **CONSIDERATION OF A CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION**

RECOMMENDATION:

Discuss and provide direction to staff.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

This study session is an opportunity for the Council to review the need for a Cultural Arts Commission. Several alternatives for addressing this need will be presented for the Council's consideration. Examples of how arts commissions in other cities are structured will also be provided for the Council's review.

BUDGET INFORMATION:

Please refer to Summary of Expected Costs attachment.

BACKGROUND:

On January 29, 2008, the City Council held a special meeting to discuss a variety of topics, including the City's boards and commissions. In addition to reviewing each of the individual boards and commissions, the Council heard comments from members of the public regarding the need for a cultural arts commission. At a follow-up meeting on February 26, 2008, this topic was placed on the Council's policy calendar and subsequently scheduled for this special meeting.

The public comment made at both of these special meetings indicated an interest in establishing a body that could assist in coordinating the interaction among artists, related organizations, local government, etc., in terms of seeking funding for the arts and increasing public awareness of cultural resources and activities. Also, there was some discussion of a prior review of this topic that was completed by a Mayor's Committee on Culture in the mid-1980's. A copy of this report is attached, along with a summary of some potential cultural arts "needs" that have been identified based on the discussions at the January and February special meetings and review of the functions of other cities' cultural arts commissions.

In looking at other cities across the state, it is clear that cultural arts commissions are structured in a variety of ways and their functions vary. The charge of some arts commissions is very broad, such as Capitola and Redwood City, while others, such as the Palo Alto Public Arts Commission, focus primarily on one task, such as administering public art programs. A summary of various arts commissions in selected cities and their functions is attached.

As with their functions, board membership and how the commission is structured and staffed also varies across cities. In reviewing how other cities have approached formation of such bodies, it appears that a variety of options are available. These options, and how they might apply in Benicia, are summarized below.

1. The City's existing Human Services & Arts Board is responsible for reviewing grant requests and monitoring the activities of grant recipients. (Attached please find the resolution describing the current functions of this Board.) This Board already has some involvement with arts organizations and funding, and so there may be some opportunity to build off the arts relationship that already exists with this board. A subcommittee of this board could potentially be formed to provide more focus on the needs of arts organizations, as in Vacaville, where the Art Advisory Committee is under the umbrella of the City's Community Services Commission. It is expected that costs associated with this approach would be fairly similar to the estimate for a stand-alone commission option (see #3 below), although that will be dependent on the scope identified for the subcommittee.
2. Another option is for a committee to form outside the auspices of the City. This would be an independent, non-profit group that would be organized for cultural purposes and coordination, which the City could participate in via an assigned staff liaison, but would not coordinate directly or necessarily fund. An example of such a group is the Del Norte Association for Cultural Awareness. The attached Summary of Selected Cultural Arts Commissions provides additional information on such groups. The relationship between a new group and the City's many existing arts organizations would have to be worked out.
3. A third option is a stand-alone City commission with staff and budget. The budget funding and staff for this body would be new, and the source would need to be identified. In the review of other cities, some utilize City funding while others support their efforts via fundraising (or a combination of both). A summary of expected cost for such a commission, based on the identified program possibilities, is attached.

If this option is the preferred model, staff recommends that the best approach would be to appoint members from the existing boards and commissions that already have a relationship or potential involvement with the mission of a cultural arts commission. For example, the commission could include representatives from the Library Board of Trustees, Parks and Recreation Commission, Human Services & Arts Board, Economic Development Board, and the Planning Commission and/or Historic Preservation Review Commission, with potentially some new slots for representatives of the arts community.

This option would provide better coordination, in that all of these bodies currently have an involvement with some aspect of the expected functions of such a commission.

The first step in this discussion is identifying how best to meet the cultural arts needs of the community, whether that is through an already existing body, a new independent group, or a stand-alone City commission. Depending on the outcome of that first step, a subsequent discussion of how this relates to existing City priorities and upcoming study session items, such as the consideration of a Sustainability Commission, will be necessary to determine next steps. Additionally, confirmation of resources required and a source for any needed funding will need to be identified.

Attachments:

- Summary of Possible Cultural Arts Needs
- Summary of expected costs for a Cultural Arts Commission
- Summary of Selected Cultural Arts Commissions
- Sample Cultural Commission Strategic Plan – Redwood City
- Human Services and Arts Board Resolution
- Findings and Recommendations of the Mayor’s Committee on Culture - 1984

**SUMMARY OF POSSIBLE
CULTURAL ARTS NEEDS**

What could a cultural arts¹ commission do?

Heighten awareness and visibility of the city's arts and cultural assets.
Promote programs for the cultural enrichment of the citizens.
Create collaborative opportunities for artists and performers

Why do we need this commission?

This commission could work on:

- Programs for the cultural enrichment of the citizens
- Collaborations with other groups/agencies/organizations
- Website, art promotion, and general communication.
- City-wide events involving the arts
- Attracting visitors that enjoy the arts
- Calendar of events
- Fundraising
- Grant allocation
- Public Art program
- Art in schools
- Combining historic and art interests
- Performing arts center
- Art policy recommendations for the City Council

Program possibilities

Possibilities for programs are extensive and potentially include:

- Preparing a Cultural Plan for the community
- Developing a newsletter and calendar
- Creating a cooperative arts organization mailing list
- Providing pro-bono marketing and public relations assistance for artists' organizations
- Strengthening the relationship between the City's cultural groups and the farmer's market-Main Street and other organizations
- Organizing events citywide that involve the arts
- Providing a framework for historic interests and arts interests to collaborate
- Assisting artists and performers to obtain individual funding through grants and alternative sources
- Collaborating fundraising efforts on behalf of the cultural community as an entity
- Working with City staff to place public art in the community
- Discussing with school administrators how to best promote the arts within the educational system
- Assisting the performing arts groups in the community to meet their goals
- Recommending to Council appropriate cultural art policies

Descriptions of selected program possibilities are provided on the following page.

¹ Cultural arts include visual, graphic, and performing arts, public art, literacy and art education.

Cultural Plan

Work with members of the community to develop a cultural plan. Community input would include arts and cultural organizations, performing arts groups, service clubs, public schools, businesses, churches, individual artists, and interested citizens. The plan would create short and long-term goals and objectives along with a strategic plan for implementation.

Enhance Communication in and awareness of the art community through a website to provide information to the public about the City's cultural activities. The Commission could also produce an online newsletter chronicling news, events, and other information about the local arts environment.

As part of community awareness, a cultural arts event calendar could be created to publicize upcoming exhibits, programs, etc. This could link the activities of the various interest groups working within Benicia.

Promote the arts. Work as liaison with regional, state, and federal arts organizations. Also provide outreach to other arts organizations, agencies and individual artists. Identify the needs of local artists and provide support to whatever degree possible. Work with local organizations such as Main Street on the Handicraft Fair, Jazz & Art program, etc.

Advocacy would also include encouraging programs for the cultural enrichment of local citizens. In 2007, local writers wrote short stories on My California for the "One book, one community" program sponsored by the Library. The cultural commission could promote and enhance existing programs promoting the arts.

Public Art Program: This could be organized by a Public Arts Committee or by a subcommittee of any Cultural Arts Commission/Committee. This committee could create an ongoing exhibition program highlighting various types of art in Benicia. Artists could be encouraged to sell their work at these exhibits. At the beginning of each exhibit, participating artists would be invited to attend a City Council meeting to receive a formal resolution from the Mayor.

Working with the City, this committee could also select and place public art in the community.

Arts in the Schools. Work with school administrators to determine what art programs would best serve local students. Help to implement recommendations. Possibly work with regional groups to provide arts education services in the schools.

Participate in California Arts Council programs that bring arts opportunities to local students. Work with local artists on internship program.

Performing Arts Center. Help identify venues for local groups. Assess possibilities for flexible solutions to staging requirements for each group. Start working on fundraising or grant possibilities for a new Performing Arts Center if existing venues are inadequate.

Create and enhance musical programs in the schools and community.

Provide support for local theater groups. This could be assisting organizations to apply for grants or applying for grants on behalf of the community.

Work with the Poet Laureate and the library on citywide poetry and literary events

Lend vital support and sponsorship to the visual, literary, music, dance, theatre, or arts education in our schools. Advocate for the presence, success, and growth of this invaluable fundamental element in all of our lives.

**SUMMARY OF
EXPECTED COSTS**

Cultural Arts Commission Summary of Expected Costs

The following summarizes expected minimum costs for a cultural arts commission.

Staff & Other Expenses	Cost
New Expenses:	
Part-Time Staff Person (aprox. 10 hours per week)	\$ 23,591
Operating Supplies (Printing, office supplies, etc.)	<u>\$ 15,000</u>
Sub-Total – New Expenses:	\$38,591
Existing Expenses:	
Funds for Grants for Arts Organizations	
Arts Benicia	\$ 58,560
Benicia Community Arts	\$ 17,560
Benicia Old Town Theater Group	\$ 10,550
Benicia Performing Arts	<u>\$ 9,500</u>
Sub-Total – Arts Grants	\$ 96,170
Total	\$134,761

Budget Assumptions:

Staffing: It is expected that a part-time staff person would be required in order to support a cultural arts commission. It is expected additional supervisory and administrative support would be provided by the department overseeing the management analyst.

It is anticipated that the City would wish to recruit an individual at the level of a management analyst, with some background in the arts and/or experience working with cultural arts commissions. The estimate noted above assumes approximately 10 hours per week, or 40 hours per month.

Grant Funding: Currently the City's General Fund contributes \$96,170 for the 2008-09 fiscal year toward grant funding to arts organizations, as illustrated in the above chart. The budget assumes that the existing level of funding for arts grants would remain at this level. This amount could possibly be increased to allow for additional grants through fundraising, supports from local businesses, etc.

Operating Supplies: This amount is estimated at \$15,000 to cover costs such as printing of brochures, calendars, and other materials and supplies likely necessary for promotion and implementation of various events, etc. This amount would also cover other necessities such as office supplies and equipment for the part-time staff person.

**SUMMARY OF SELECTED
CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSIONS**

Special Meeting VI-A-10

Comparison of Selected Cultural Arts Commissions

The scope of the commission would be determined by the community and by funding. Any items might be selected as priorities, but the most fundamental seem to be a calendar and website. The scope could expand with additional financial contributions or funding. The following represent a range from small and large agencies, each providing an example of the adaptability of the organization to the community.

Examples of City Commissions:

Capitola

Name of Commission: Art & Cultural Commission

Purpose: To advise the City Council as to the allocation of public funds for the support and encouragement of existing and new programs in the arts, acquire by purchase, gift or otherwise, works of art subject to City council approval, initiate, sponsor or direct special programs which will enhance the cultural climate of the city, establish liaison with other commissions and civic organizations in order to foster public interest in the arts and implement the Art & Cultural Master Plan.

Members: Commission is comprised of one Council Member, one Planning Commissioner, one Artist or Arts Organization Representative, one Arts Professional and three at-large members.

Funding Source: City funding and sponsorship from local businesses. The City also has program called "2% for Art" where 2% of the cost of large renovations goes to the art fund for projects.

Staffed by: Part-time (11.7 hours per week) Administrative Assistant to the Art & Cultural Commission under the City Manager's Office.

El Cerrito

Name of Commission: Art & Culture Commission

Purpose: To act in an advisory capacity to the City Council in all matters pertaining to arts in the community. Make recommendations to the Council concerning the resources and needs of the community on the subject of the arts. Work cooperatively with City boards and commission and other public/private organizations in creating, promoting art and cultural programs and activities within the City. Coordinate and strengthen existing organizations in the arts and develop cooperating with regional organizations. Make recommendations to City Council including the search for grants and regarding the funding of community art projects, including the disbursement of revenues consistent with the needs of the community.

Also reviews and makes recommendations to the Council upon all works of art to be acquired by the city. Recommends to Council the adoption of such ordinances or policies it may deem necessary for the administration and preservation of the arts and cultural development of the City.

Members: Seven members who demonstrate a commitment to various art disciplines, including but not limited to fine arts, visual arts, performing arts, literary arts, art history and arts education.

Funding Source: General Fund and Art in Public Places Program that designates 1% of development costs to public art.

Staffed by: Karen Pinkos, Assistant City Manager

Redwood City

Name of Commission: Civic Cultural Commission

Purpose: Establish programs stimulating and encouraging the development and maintenance of the performing and visual arts in the City and to review such programs. Establish programs memorializing or giving recognition to matters of cultural significance in the City and to review periodically such programs. Provides recommendations on removal, relocation or alteration of existing works of art or items of cultural significance in possession of the city, along with acquisition by the City of any work of art or item of cultural significance. Provides recommendations on the aesthetics of the design and site development of any building, monument or other structure to be acquired by the City.

Following the review of selected commissions, additional details regarding Redwood City's Civic Cultural Commission is provided, including the Commission's Strategic Plan document and Funding Guidelines.

Members: Commission is comprised of seven members who demonstrate a deep interest in, and appreciation of, artistic and cultural matters.

Funding Source: Primarily City-funded, although some funding comes from donations.

Staffed by: Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department Superintendent. Superintendent spends 5-10 hours per week on this commission and the Department Administrative Secretary spends 5-10 hours per week as well.

Vacaville

Name of Commission: Arts Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of the Community Services Commission

Members: Committee is comprised of a chair, vice chair, community services commissioner, and a Vaca Arts representative along with three at-large members and four ex-officio organizational members.

Funding Source: Donations

Staffed by: Community Services Department Recreation Supervisor

Examples of other types of arts commissions:

Del Norte Association for Cultural Awareness (www.dnaca.net) is a nonprofit, public benefit corporation founded in 1981. Their strategic vision is to serve as an integral hub, linking the arts world with the broader community. While the scope of this association is fairly small, their achievements include bringing performing artists to the region and providing art in education, "special arts for the very, very young", arts calendars, and art in public places. Their annual budget is \$82,000. This includes 32 hours of staff time and miscellaneous other expenses.

Cultural Council of Santa Cruz County (www.ccscc.org)
The Cultural Council supports and advances the arts and culture of Santa Cruz County through three major programs: Arts Learning, Grants to Artists and Arts Organizations, and the Open Studios Art Tour. They also partner with many other agencies, foundations, and groups on initiatives that keep local arts strong and vital. Through these programs and services, people of all ages and backgrounds have the opportunity to experience music, dance, theater, visual, literary, and other arts of this unique community.

Arts Council of Napa Valley (<http://www.artscouncilnapavalley.org/about/board.shtml>)
The Arts Council Napa Valley's website includes many types of information about Napa Valley arts. Their online Master Arts and Culture Calendar includes visual, literary, theater, music, dance, historical, and cultural events; it also features workshops, classes, auctions and benefits, and lectures, and includes a page devoted to events for teens. A section titled "For Patrons of Art" lists of galleries, museums, arts organizations, and wineries with art exhibits; and the "Artists' Programs" guides working artists to opportunities, program information, and a Community Arts Message Board. A Community Cultural Plan is a culmination of a year of exhaustive research designed to create the first-ever countywide cultural plan for the community. Membership allows interested parties to support the arts community by joining the Arts Council of Napa Valley.

Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission (<http://www.sacmetroarts.org/about-us.html>) The Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission (SMAC), established in 1977, is a public agency devoted to supporting, promoting and advancing the arts in the region. Funded by the City and County, the Commission provides funding to local artists and arts groups; promotes the arts through marketing, outreach and education initiatives; provides resources to support and increase regional arts education activities; and serves as a community partner and resource. The agency is guided by 11 Commissioners, five appointed by the Sacramento City Council, five appointed by the Sacramento County Board of Supervisors, and one appointed jointly by the mayors of Folsom, Isleton, and Galt. The Commission's annual budget is \$6,762,484 (\$5 million of this is for their Art in Public Places Program and the remainder supports operations and re-granting.) They have 11 full-time staff and several consultants, totaling \$459,000 on labor benefits.

**REDWOOD CITY CULTURAL COMMISSION:
STRATEGIC PLAN
FUNDING GUIDELINES & PROCEDURES**

Special Meeting VI-A-15

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR REDWOOD CITY CULTURAL COMMISSION

(Adopted by Motion 3/3/05)

Why Create a Strategic Plan?

In 1985, the City of Redwood City adopted a cultural element to its General Plan, which sets a goal of creating a "vital cultural life in Redwood City"¹. As 2005 begins, the Civic Cultural Commission has taken the time to review the element as a basis for the development of its own strategic plan to provide:

- A focus for the work of the Commission
- An assessment of what has changed in the cultural climate of the City
- Information on the opportunities and challenges facing the arts in the City
- Strategies for reaching our desired cultural goals.

The Commission believes the following principles and values are the foundation for all our work.

- Celebration of the **diversity** of the Redwood City Community
- **Top quality and excellence** in programs
- Support of **community building** through cultural activities
- Recognition that **art in all its forms, including visual, dramatic, music, dance, film, literature or other artistic expression**, is essential to a vital community

The authors of the City's first Cultural Element to the General Plan believed that, "cultural activities make the difference between living and merely existing" and that by adopting the element, the City would, "promote a closer, more productive relationship among business, government, the arts and the community."²

The reasons for asking the City to support the development of cultural activities in the City remain true for the present Commissioners and were expressed by the drafters of the Cultural Element as follows:

"Creative activities develop self-esteem and a sense of accomplishment. They stimulate community spirit and provide an understanding and appreciation of our heritage as human beings. Therefore, it is essential to encourage the appreciation and preservation of the literature, and the visual and performing arts of the city's multi-ethnic culture. By providing opportunities for individuals to discover their own creative skills, for artists to perfect their talents, and all to gain inspiration and an understanding of their fellow human beings and the world around them, we can also help to unite diverse ethnic, racial and age groups."

¹ Redwood City General Plan Cultural Element adopted 1990

² Redwood City General Plan Cultural Element

The Cultural Commission has determined that it can best support a vital cultural life in the City in the following roles:

- Advocate – Example: Proposed % for the Arts Program for new development
- Funder – Example: Grants Program
- Broker – Example: Bringing groups together to promote the arts
- Provider – Example: Summer Concert Series, 'Tis the Season, School Art Contest, Purchase of public art

Where are we now?

Redwood City is situated midway between a myriad of cultural activities in San Francisco and San Jose and adjacent to the active cultural arts centers in San Mateo, the Mountain View, Palo Alto and Stanford University. Despite this level of activity in surrounding communities, Cultural Commissioners feel that Redwood City is on the brink of a cultural expansion. With the completion of the new downtown plan, we have the unique opportunity now to become the entertainment center of the Peninsula. The importance of this cultural upswing to the spirit of our city and to its economic success should not be underrated. Symphony performances, dance concerts, art shows, and repertory theaters generate income for many other businesses. Furthermore, they are increasingly a consideration in attracting corporations and tourists and our surrounding communities.

The following represents the Commission's attempt to highlight both the opportunities and challenges of the current cultural climate in Redwood City.

Current Opportunities

- The **Fox Theater** located in the center of downtown is under new ownership. It has been physically restored with increased programming being developed by Montalvo. Attractions have included Bill Cosby, Itzhak Perlman, and Jackson Browne.
- The restoration of historic **Carrington Hall** on the Sequoia High School Campus provides another downtown venue for the cultural arts.
- The **Downtown Cinema Complex** will be completed in 2006.
- The **Mayor's Task Force** completed their work on a proposed **Downtown Plan** which emphasized the importance of cultural activities and suggested the creation of a **cultural arts center**.
- The **Civic Cultural Commission** is actively involved in making **recommendations on public art for the new downtown, as well as promoting artist-friendly live/work areas.**
- The **Downtown Concert Series** and the **Concerts in the Park**, both sponsored by the Commission, in Redwood City during the summer months.
- The former San Mateo County Courthouse now houses the **County's History Museum.**

- **The new plaza in front of the History Museum** will doubtless provide many opportunities to showcase the arts.
- **The Redwood City Art Center** offers gallery space, classes and workshops in the downtown, boasts the City's first mural, and is attracting new artists who are providing more and stronger art programs for the community.
- The Redwood City School District has completed the renovation or construction of **Library/Media Centers and Multipurpose Rooms** on all of its campuses.
- An **art gallery** space was included in the design for the Redwood City - City Hall.
- Local groups such as the Sequoia Art Group, Redwood City Heritage Association, Redwood City Archives Committee and public agencies including Canada College, Sequoia Adult School, Redwood City Public Library and Redwood City Parks, Recreation and Community Services **provide the opportunity for a wide variety of classes.**
- **Many cultural organizations seek the possibility of locating to Redwood City.**

Challenges

- **Local School Districts continue to struggle to provide a rich cultural arts program amid tight budgets.** The Redwood City School District and the Redwood City Education Foundation are working together to improve this situation at the elementary school level. As a result there has been marked increases in the number of instrumental music students (from 250 to 600), with students in grades 2-4 also receiving instruction in music. The most recent news indicates the need for the Redwood City School District to cut almost \$3 million dollars from its current budget, which may have a negative effect on the District's ability to continue to support music in the schools beyond the 2004-05 school year. Additional funding is needed to support this valued component of the RCSD instructional program.
- Offering courses such as **music, visual and performing arts** continues to be a challenge for our local high schools.
- Commission has vision to **dramatically increase visibility and awareness of public art** in Redwood City.
- No ordinance currently exists promoting the **inclusion of Public Art in new developments.**
- **Funds allocated by the City for cultural arts** currently represent and annual expenditure of less than \$1.00 per resident. Making Redwood City a "cultural destination" will likely require additional monetary support and a resulting competition among many other important projects and programs.
- Defining role City should play in **seeking additional dollars** in corporate sponsorship, foundation support or other outside funding.

The Civic Cultural Commission considers the opportunities and challenges listed above as the most important issues to consider in development of their 3-5 year strategies.

What do we want to do?

Strategic Goals:

Based on our recognition of the changes in our environment, the Civic Cultural Commission believes that its efforts should be focused on supporting the following:

- the development of downtown as the City's cultural center;
- supporting of the arts both in the elementary and secondary school levels;
- community building events that celebrate the diversity of our community and support local arts organizations;
- programs that focus on a senior audience;
- increased investment in public art; and
- alternative funding sources for the arts.

As such the Commission proposes the following goals based on its possible roles as advocate (one that defends or maintains a case or proposal), broker (one who acts as an intermediary), sponsor (one who provides funding in support of), and provider (to supply or make available certain special activities) for the arts in Redwood City. The following are examples of the different roles the Commission could play:

Advocate:

- Promote the establishment of a comprehensive cultural center in the downtown
- Strengthen the cultural arts experience in the schools
- Support major downtown annual festival of the arts
- Public Art Ordinance requiring Public Art in certain developments and new public facilities
- Retain and strengthen concerts in the downtown
- Strengthen ties with Farmers Market for promotion of events

Broker:

- Major school festival of the arts
- Partnership with private businesses to support the arts
- Opera Performances
- Downtown Lunchtime Entertainment
- Foreign or Classic Film Festival

Sponsor:

- Art experience in the schools
- Establish criteria for annual funding cycle
- Fund Established for the Purchase of Public Art
- Allocate budget for small and large grants as requested

Provider:

- Create at least one activity designed as a fundraising event
- Summer Downtown Concert Series and Concerts in the Park
- Elementary School Art Contest
- Downtown Holiday Event
- Sunday Concerts

A more detailed list of the organizations, facilities, programs, and special events that are currently a part of the City's culture is included as Appendix 1 of this plan.

1.) Organizations

Among the strongest cultural organizations in the City are as follows:

- Archives Committee of the Redwood City Public Library
- ARTshare
- Ballet America/Academy of American Ballet
- Canada College
- Fox Theater
- Friends of the Library
- Kollage Community School for the Arts
- Little Fox
- Menlo Players Guild
- Montalvo
- Peninsula Celebration Association
- Peninsula Symphony
- Peninsula Youth Orchestra
- Port of Redwood City
- Redwood City 2020
- Redwood City Art Center
- Redwood City Education Foundation
- Redwood City Heritage Association
- Redwood City Kiwanis Club – Farmers Market
- Redwood City Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department
- Redwood City School District
- Redwood Symphony
- San Mateo County Arts Commission
- San Mateo County Historical Association
- Sequoia Art Group
- Sequoia High School
- Silicon Valley Art Museum
- Vintage Music Theater

2.) Facilities

Cultural activities require meeting, studio, exhibit, rehearsal and performance facilities. Attached document (Appendix 1) includes:

- Theaters/Performance Space
- Exhibit Spaces
- Rehearsal/Studio/Classroom Space available in Redwood City, their condition and function.

3.) Programs

Programs are offered by all of the same groups are listed under the Organization section.

4.) Annual Events

A number of annual events have become a tradition in Redwood City. These include:

January	Peninsula Orchid Show
	Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration
February	Miss Redwood City Pageant
	Peninsula Camellia Show
	Citizen of the Year Banquet
	Sequoia Awards Program
March	Community Activities Fair
	Crab and Shrimp Dinner
	St. Patrick's Dinner Dance
April thru November	Farmers Market
April	Opening Day of Boating Season
	Pet Parade
May	Elementary School Art Contest (Civic Cultural Commission)
	Peninsula Rose Show
	Cinco de Mayo (RC International)
	Spring Art Show
	National Preservation Week
June thru August	Stafford Park Summer Concert Series
June thru September	Live in Downtown Concert Series
July	Independence Day Parade
	Downtown 4 th of July Festival
	Fourth of July Fireworks
	Middlefield Cultural Festival
August	Victorian Day and the Old West
September	RC Community Wellness Festival
	Sequoia Gem and Mineral Show
	Horses to Horsepower Show
October	Arts and Olive Festival
	Unsung Hero Program
	Redwood Budgie Show
	Halloween Spooktakular
December	Lathrop House Victorian Christmas
	Sequoia Stamp Club Show
	Downtown Holiday Event

Funding Guidelines and Procedures for the Redwood City Civic Cultural Commission

This document outlines the Redwood City Civic Cultural Commission's grant guidelines and procedures.

The Redwood City Civic Cultural Commission, on behalf of the City Council, provides grants to encourage programs, events, art and activities that enhance Redwood City's culture. The Commission operates on a yearly budget that begins on July 1. The Civic Cultural Commission's funding is distributed as follows:

Grant Category	Description	% of Total Funds	Grant Distributions
Large Grants	\$1,001 or more	66%	Annually at July Commission meeting
Small Grants	\$1,000 or less	11%	Year round as funds permit
Commission Sponsored Events	Amounts may vary	20%	Year round
Contingency	Amounts may vary	3%	Year round
Total		100%	

As per the Civic Cultural Commission's strategic plan, the Commission considers the following priorities in making its funding decisions:

- Development of the downtown area at the city's cultural center
- Community building events that celebrate diversity and support local arts organizations
- Art for youth and programs that focus on a senior audience
- Public Art
- Alternative funding sources for the arts

All ongoing cultural events funded by the Civic Cultural commission are subject to review, evaluation and re-application on a yearly basis.

Large Grant Requests

Requests for large grants (\$1,001 or more) are reviewed in June and funded in August of each year. Applications for large grants are available on the Redwood City website (www.redwoodcity.org), at City Hall (1017 Middlefield Road), or at the Community Activities Building (1400 Roosevelt Avenue). Applicants may also email Denise Monroe at dmonroe@redwoodcity.org for an application. All large grant applications must be submitted by the first Friday in May to be considered.

Requests for Small Grants

Requests for small grants (\$1,000 or less) are accepted year round. Applications must be submitted at least two weeks prior to the date of the Commission meeting where action is requested. Up to two small grants from the same organization can be considered during one fiscal year.

All applications for funding by the Redwood City Civic Cultural Commission must meet the following criteria:

Application Evaluation:

1. Applicants must be based in Redwood City or be requesting funds for a performance in Redwood City.
2. Applicants requesting funds must be non-profit and demonstrate financial stability. The Commission may request copies of past financial statements (e.g., copies of budgets from previous cultural events).
3. Funding requested must represent no more than 20% of an applicant's total annual budget.
4. A complete and accurate application detailing the proposed project along with attainable goals, objectives, time frames, and a self evaluation procedure must be submitted by the established due dates. Please answer all questions in the order given.
5. All grant applications must be completed and presented to the Commission by an official representative of the requesting organization. The Commission reserves the right to request specific representation during the review/interview process.
6. The applicant must first obtain permission for the use and coordinate the time, date, and specific requirements for the event with the facility owners prior to applying for Commission funding.
7. The Commission will give additional consideration to a grant request if the requesting organization has applied for matching funds; the grant provides increased support of new programs with diminishing funding for ongoing programs; there is an emphasis on benefiting a large amount of people for a reasonable cost; and seeing benefits that come back to Redwood City, such as providing outreach to Redwood City residents.

If funded by the Commission:

8. The organization must complete a results-oriented final document in return for the funding granted by the Civic Cultural Commission. A financial report of the event including printed and published items such as flyers, programs, news releases, and articles should also be included. If an organization does not provide a final report to the Commission by the end of the fiscal year, the Commission may decide not to approve any future grants to this organization.
9. The Civic Cultural Commission strongly suggests that the applicants promote their event to the best of their ability. All grant recipients are expected to acknowledge the Redwood City Civic Cultural Commission as a sponsor in all forms of publicity.
10. Liability insurance may be required depending upon the event and the location. Proof of this must also be provided to the Commission.
11. Funds shall be used only for the specific purpose stated in the application. Unused funds must be returned to the Civic Cultural Commission.
12. All grant recipients must offer passes to the Civic Cultural Commission to attend the funded event for review and evaluation purposes.

The Civic Cultural Commission reserves the right to deny funding of any event that does not adhere to the above criteria. Exceptions to the above criteria are strictly at the discretion of the Commission.

For further information concerning these funding guidelines and procedures, please contact the Redwood City Parks, Recreation and Community Services Department at (650) 780-7250.

Revised 3-1-07

HSAB RESOLUTION

Special Meeting VI-A-26

RESOLUTION NO. 06-140

A RESOLUTION AMENDING THE HUMAN SERVICES FUND AND HUMAN SERVICES FUND BOARD AUTHORIZATIONS IN THE CITY OF BENICIA TO CHANGE THE NAME OF THE BOARD AND TO ADD CULTURAL ARTS TO THE BOARD'S DUTIES

WHEREAS, there is a need in the City of Benicia to develop a system of awarding funding to various "human services" and "cultural arts" programs; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to obtain funding for various human services programs through voluntary contributions and fund raising activities, which may from time to time be supplemented from the General Fund; and

WHEREAS, the City had previously established a Human Services Fund Board and now wants to expand the duties of the board to include cultural arts; and

WHEREAS, the cultural arts programs monitored by the City shall not receive funds from the voluntary contributions and fund raising activities of the Human Services and Cultural Arts Board; and

WHEREAS, the General Plan goal is to increase public awareness of cultural resources and activities will be furthered with continued City funding of cultural activities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City Council of the City of Benicia as follows:

SECTION 1: BOARD CREATED. There is created in the City of Benicia a Human Services and Cultural Arts Board. The board shall consist of nine members.

SECTION 2: QUALIFICATIONS OF BOARD MEMBERS. To be eligible for appointment to the board, an individual shall have demonstrated interest in, and commitment to, furthering the interests of human services or cultural arts programs, and be a qualified elector.

SECTION 3: TERM OF OFFICE OF BOARD MEMBERS. The term of office for each member of the board is four years. Each member shall serve a term of office of four years or until the successor is appointed and qualified.

SECTION 4: REMOVAL AND VACANCY. A member of the board may be removed by a majority vote of the Council. A vacancy on the board, whether by reason of removal, expiration of term, vacancy, or otherwise, shall be filled by appointment by the Mayor and ratification by a majority of the City Council. A person who has been appointed to fill a vacancy shall serve for the remainder of the unexpired term.

SECTION 5: GROUNDS FOR VACANCY. If a member of the board is absent without excuse from two successive regular meeting of the board, that member's office may become vacant in the discretion of the chairperson. The board shall immediately notify the Council of the vacancy.

SECTION 6: QUORUM. Five members of the board shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business.

SECTION 7: MEETINGS. The board shall fix the time and place of its regular meetings.

SECTION 8: ADOPTION OF RULES. The board shall adopt rules for the transaction of its business.

SECTION 9: OFFICERS. The board shall appoint from among its members a Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, Treasurer, and other officers and/or positions as the board deems necessary or appropriate. The Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson, Secretary, and Treasurer shall serve for a term of one year.

SECTION 10: OFFICER'S DUTIES. The board shall determine and define the duties of each of its officers.

SECTION 11: LIAISON. The Mayor shall appoint one member of the Council and the City Manager shall appoint one member of the City Staff to act as liaisons to the board.

SECTION 12: POWERS AND DUTIES. The board shall have the following powers and duties:

- A. Investigate human services and cultural arts needs of the City of Benicia and annually make recommendations to the City Council regarding priorities of human services and cultural arts needs.
- B. Develop procedures and timetables for reviewing funding requests, and make recommendations to the City Council as to which applicants should be funded.
- C. Evaluate and report to the City Council regarding the effectiveness of the previous year's funding.
- D. Coordinate continuing fund raising activities for human services needs only.

SECTION 13: LIMITATIONS OF POWERS. The City Council shall have the exclusive power to make distributions from the Human Services Fund after consideration of the recommendations of the board.

SECTION 14: HUMAN SERVICES FUND CREATED - SOLICITATION AND COLLECTION OF CONTRIBUTIONS. The City Council hereby creates a "Human Services Fund" which shall consist of funds obtained by the solicitation of voluntary contributions to the funds, fund raising activities, and from funds contributed by the City, if any, for human services programs. In addition to other methods of obtaining funds for human services needs, the City may solicit voluntary written pledges for contributions to the fund from citizens and property owners of the City, and the City may collect the sum pledged by an individual by billing him/her therefore as a separate item on their water bill. The funds collected by the City shall be placed in

a separate trust fund of the City designated as the "Human Services Fund" to be distributed annually by the Council only to human services programs, and only after hearing and considering the recommendations of the board and other information which the Council, in its discretion, may consider.

SECTION 15: HUMAN SERVICES PROGRAM DEFINED. A "human services program" for the purposes of this resolution, shall be those programs or activities which address the mental, social or physical health and welfare of Benicia residents of all ages.

SECTION 16: CULTURAL ARTS PROGRAM DEFINED. A "cultural arts program" for the purposes of this resolution, shall be those programs or activities which support and promote the arts as a major element in Benicia's community identify (Goal 3.6, page 109) encompassing cultural arts, fine arts, theater arts, and other closely related fields that improve the quality and enjoyment of life by Benicia residents of all ages.

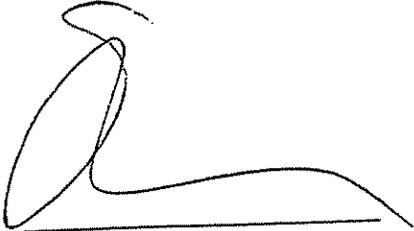
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Resolution Number 86-18 is superseded in its entirety.

On motion of Vice Mayor Schwartzman, seconded by Council Member Patterson, the above resolution was introduced and passed by the City Council of the City of Benicia at a regular meeting of said Council held on the 5th day of September, 2006 and adopted by the following vote:

Ayes: Council Members Hughes, Patterson, Schwartzman, Whitney and Mayor Messina

Noes: None

Absent: None


Steve Messina, Mayor

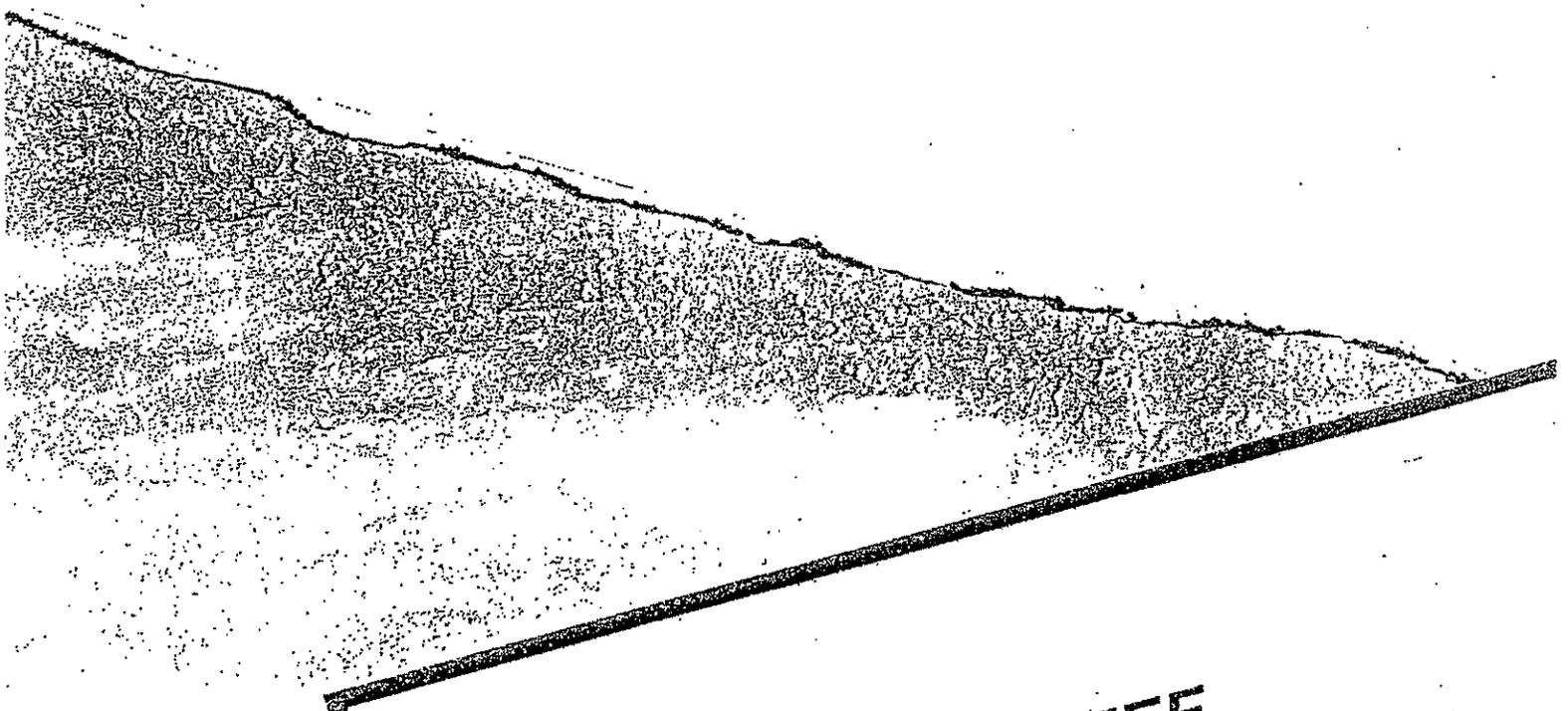
Attest:


Lisa Wolfe, City Clerk

**FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS
MAYOR'S COMMITTEE ON CULTURE
1984**

Special Meeting VI-A-30

FINDINGS
AND
RECOMMENDATIONS
OF



**THE
MAYOR'S COMMITTEE
ON CULTURE**

BENICIA, CA.
DECEMBER 1984

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- A. Letter from Mayor O'Rourke
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Research documents and information from other communities are on file in the City Managers Office.

INTRODUCTION

What follows are the findings and recommendations of the Mayor's Committee on Culture.

In May, when the Mayor appointed the Committee on Culture, she quoted Matthew Arnold: "Culture: the acquainting ourselves with the best that has been known and said in the world, and thus with the history of the human spirit." Mayor O'Rourke went on to ask us to assess our rich cultural heritage and resources; to assess and evaluate current activities, programs, opportunities and efforts in Benicia; to assess and evaluate philosophies, activities and efforts in other communities; and to make recommendations to the City Council.

We began our task by defining culture according to Webster's:

- improvement, refinement or development by study, training;
- the training and refining of the mind;
- the result of this; refinement of thought;
- the concepts, habits, skills, art, instruments, institutions, of a given people in a given period; civilization.

The Committee was divided into five subcommittees so that research could be conducted in an organized manner.

The subcommittees and a description of their tasks follows:

Space - evaluate public and private spaces, used and unused spaces, that could be utilized for cultural activities; to determine the community's needs in terms of space.

People - evaluate the involvement and needs of members of the community in cultural activities. Groups, individuals, businesses and school activities should be included.

Money - examine public and private sources of funds, such as grants, "percent for culture" programs, revenue sharing, city budget.

Other Communities - assess the cultural organization in other communities as a means of suggesting possibilities for Benicia.

Historic Benicia - assess the Community's cultural heritage, particularly Benicia in terms of historic structures.

Subcommittee reports are contained in the Appendix, and the basis for the Committee's recommendations has been extrapolated from them. Research documents such as the opinion survey sent to Benicia residents were too voluminous to include. All such supplementary data, along with a complete copy of this report, ARE available for inspection in the City Manager's office.

Please note that the use of the word "art" and its derivatives should be interpreted to include all of the arts (visual, performing, auditory, literary) unless otherwise stated.

I would like to thank the Mayor and Council for giving us the opportunity to serve on this committee, the committee members for their diligent efforts, Del Lacey, the City Staff person assigned to the committee, and City Manager John Silva, and other city staff for their support when it was needed.

Sandra Shannonhouse
Chairperson

RECOMMENDATION I

THAT THE CITY OF BENICIA ESTABLISH A CIVIC ARTS AND CULTURAL COMMISSION SIMILAR IN STRUCTURE AND AUTHORITY TO OTHER EXISTING CITY ADVISORY COMMISSIONS.

Currently, the City sponsors a few art classes under the auspices of the Parks and Recreation Department. The library has out grown its quarters. Sporadic attention has been given by the City to our historical heritage. Also, the City has not aggressively sought to provide a way or encourage the interface of the rich and varied arts community in the City with the citizenry at large. It should be noted that Benicia's professional artists occupy more than 50,000 square feet of studio space and gross more than one million dollars annually. Presently, as in the past, energies of the Parks and Recreation Department are focused on developing parks, maintaining park areas, and encouraging recreation activities largely dominated by sports. Benicia is now a community of over 20,000 people. It is time to create a Cultural Commission that will have the responsibility to assure that the community's divergent interests in culture and the fine arts are fostered and developed. We believe that arts programs in Benicia must be geared to provide artistic and intellectual enrichment as well as leisure time activity. While careful structural and program planning are imperative prior to establishing a Cultural Commission, our studies indicate that the group should be a policy setting and administrative commission having representatives from the community of professional artists as well as other business people. This is not an uncommon structure for such a commission and it would ensure quality based on the expertise professional artists would bring and a more balanced, broader point of view brought by interested community members.

Based on our inquiries into other cities' cultural commissions, the following listing offers suggested responsibilities for such a commission:

1. To encourage programs for the cultural enrichment of the citizens.
2. To coordinate and strengthen existing civic Arts and Cultural organizations.
3. To propose methods of obtaining annually renewable private sector funding support (individuals, groups, businesses) to facilitate local arts programming.

4. To establish and maintain ongoing relationships with state and federal level cultural commissions and organizations which would assist Benicia in taking advantage of all available outside resources to further local cultural pursuits.
5. To advise City Staff and City Council on all matters relating to culture and the arts and to lobby the City to budget funds for culture and the arts.
6. To advise and consult with individuals and cultural groups and their representatives within the community.
7. To devise programs and methods of encouraging quality cultural activities in the community, as well as to bring about increased public understanding, appreciation, participation, and enjoyment of cultural activities.
8. To review and make recommendations on any works of art that may be in the City's possession, and those that may be acquired or donated to the City, and the appropriate location for that art.

The recommended initial tasks of the commission are:

- o establish a "Friends of the Arts" private, non-profit support group to undertake fund raising from foundations, corporations and other private sources. Funds raised would be used only for programs, not for buildings or administrative costs.
- o establish a gallery and adjacent gallery shop to be run by "Friends of the Arts" possibly in the Depot building in the Historic Triangle (see Historic Benicia subcommittee report.) *

* The exact structuring of this should be researched by the finance director so as not to endanger the non-profit status of the "Friends of the Arts" or the ability to receive grant funding.

- o establish in the public schools and/or Youth Activity Center an "artist in residence" program or artist workshops working with both Benicia Unified School District representatives and ongoing "youth corps" leadership.
- o promote and subsidize existing local arts and cultural groups.
- o produce a written "inventory" of local arts and cultural groups and individuals working in the arts. (Examples: Benicia Old Town Theatre Group, Benicia Community Arts, Carquinez Straits Band, Creative I Centre, Benicia Historical Museum and Cultural Foundation). From the inventory, determine the best way to promote these community assets.

Having offered this structure, suggested responsibilities and recommended initial tasks for a cultural organization for Benicia, it is important to emphasize again that these are suggestions. Among the many discoveries made during the Committee's investigations, the names of several individuals in the state kept surfacing as important people to talk with in regard to establishing a commission. Where possible, the Committee obtained as much free information as was feasible. It became clear that to take the next step in tailoring a commission structure for Benicia it would be best to hire a consultant to guide us more directly to our goals. What we are proposing to do in Benicia is not uncommon and, with the proper guidance, we can avoid typical pitfalls.

However, we have been advised that even if Benicia opts to acquire this sort of assistance, it is important to have thought through the community's needs and desires. It is not the job of a consultant, after all, to determine where we are today and to set forth our hopes and dreams.

As noted in Arts in the City, "At worst, (arts) councils may remain nothing more than a set of bylaws or city ordinances -- sound without significance. At their best, they could become the architects of comprehensive arts programs affecting all aspects of urban life. They could act as catalysts for interaction among artists, art institutions, local governments, universities, and state and federal agencies." **

** Arts in the City, a publication from the National Assembly of Local Arts Agencies, Washington D.C., foreward.

An additional point in favor of establishing a City-led cultural commission is that partial City funding and involvement in arts programming renders the City eligible for state funding to supplement art and culturally-oriented activities.

RECOMMENDATION II

THAT THE CITY MANAGER APPOINT OR HIRE A STAFF PERSON TO SERVE AS THE CIVIC ARTS AND CULTURAL COORDINATOR

Just as the Park and Recreation commission and all other commissions are assigned a staff person, so should the Cultural Commission. The City Manager's designee should have a strong background in one area of the arts. The committee recognizes that there may be someone on the staff who could serve in this capacity for the proposed new commission. If a new person were to be hired, it would be crucial that the individual understand the goals of the City and the diversity of the community. It should be noted that City support, funding and involvement establishes eligibility for some State funding. (See Recommendation IV: Funding). A City's continuity of leadership is an important element of the successful Cultural Programs carried out in other communities. According to our studies, lack of city leadership was the key reason for program failure.

RECOMMENDATION III

THAT THE CITY FIND A "HOME" FOR CULTURE

Within the current City structure there does not appear to be a department or division that can support or develop the cultural interests in our community. Our research on other communities shows that we in Benicia are in a typical position. There are several ways that the issue can be resolved and the City Manager will play an integral part in seeing that the best solution is effected. There are precedents in other cities that can be used for guidance here.

RECOMMENDATION IV

THAT THE CITY APPROPRIATE MONIES AS WELL AS ESTABLISH A "PERCENT FOR CULTURE FUND", ENCOURAGE THE FORMATION OF A PRIVATE, NON-PROFIT "FRIENDS OF THE ARTS" SUPPORT GROUP TO ENABLE FUND RAISING FROM FOUNDATIONS, CORPORATIONS AND OTHER PRIVATE SOURCES AND SEEK STATE AND FEDERAL GRANTS.

Research shows that Benicia is in a position to initiate a funding program that many cities are now implementing. Prompted by Post-Prop. 13 cutbacks as well as tighter state and federal grant guidelines. This program requires arts organizations to demonstrate a broad-based support system including: City support (i.e. from general funds, "Percent for Art" (see below), hotel/guest berth bed tax), earned income (memberships, gallery and ticket sales), and corporate and business support. Funding must be a public/private partnership.

The "Percent for Art" concept operates as follows. Many cities establish an ordinance allowing a percentage of new construction costs to be allocated to the acquisition and placement of works of art in the city environment. Sacramento, for example, allocates two percent and puts the money towards its "Art in Public Places" program. It is our recommendation that such a "Percent for Art" program be implemented in Benicia for the purpose of raising capital funds to build and maintain a cultural center. It appears that the City has a "Miscellaneous Buildings and Structures" account, number 4952, that is not currently being used and could be a cost center for the proposed funds.

Other possible municipal revenue sources are: General Funds, Marina Operations Income, Revenue Sharing Funds, and the Capital License Tax funds. A hotel tax and a guest boat berth tax are additional areas that the council and City Manager should explore. At the minimum, the City should pay the administrative costs for Civic Arts and Cultural activities.

Local corporations that are known to support cultural efforts are Mervyn's, Raley's and Exxon, among others. Other business support must be developed. A program of honoring local businesses during May, which is Arts Month, has been successful in other cities in bringing the private sector into the process of supporting the arts. With the encouragement of a City Staff person and the ongoing support of the proposed Commission, a private non-profit "Friends of the Arts" support group should be established to provide a vehicle for tax deductible contributions and memberships in support of arts programming. The Benicia Education Fund concept is a good model.

The "Friends of the Arts" could also run a gallery/shop of high-quality (examples: Mendocino Art Center Gallery, Chicago Museum of Contemporary Art Bookstore, and Craft and Folk Art Museum Shop, Los Angeles) to earn income while calling attention to arts and cultural activities in the city. (see Recommendation VI)

With the preceding programs established and the City firmly in the leadership role, Benicia would qualify to apply for California (State) Arts Council (CAC) grants. Solano was one of only two counties that did not receive a CAC State-Local Arts Partnership Grant for the 1984-85 funding cycle. Because of problems experienced by Solano County, the Committee recommends that Benicia divorce itself from the County programs and apply for a CAC Artistic and Administrative Development Grant. These grants are for public or private organizations for use in visual or community arts. As previously stated, it is important to show that the Benicia arts organization has monetary support from the City as well as private sources and is not dependent solely upon the State.

Once a program has been in effect for three years and can prove its good health, it is possible to apply for other State and Federal grants.

RECOMMENDATION V

THAT THE CITY ADOPT AN ARTS AND CULTURE ELEMENT FOR THE GENERAL PLAN

Any time that the General Plan is changed or added to, careful consideration must accompany that decision. The inclusion of an Arts and Culture Element in Benicia's General Plan should be studied by the staff and council. Our committee research shows that cities have included an Arts and Culture Element for the purpose of clarifying the philosophical basis upon which the city's involvement is built.

The Arts Element of the city of Davis, California is included as appendix item C, for your perusal. The inclusion of an element, tailored to Benicia's needs, in our General Plan would establish the premise that creative activities are an important part of contemporary existence and instinctive in human beings: they are a condition of being human and essential for our survival.

They are not luxuries, frills, amenities or "nice to have if the budget allows"; rather these activities satisfy some basic needs of human beings: the search for self-esteem, a sense of personal worth, the need to be a vital part of the community where one lives.

That City Government seriously address the issue of culture and arts programming and activities for Benicia was validated by the resident opinion survey circulated by our committee. The greater than average number of responses to the survey were largely enthusiastic and positive. 74 percent of the respondents favored having a cultural center in Benicia. With 52 percent of the responses from people who have lived in Benicia for five years or less, it is evident that there are major concerns among those relatively new to Benicia. With this widespread conviction that it is the City's duty to take a proactive approach to involve itself in arts programming, the Committee foresees a workable partnership: citizens and their government sharing in the process of developing high quality programming for cultural pursuits. This kind of partnership is already evident in the City's Parks and Recreation Department.

RECOMMENDATION VI

THAT THE CITY INCLUDE AS AN ELEMENT OF THE COASTAL CONSERVANCY PLANNING GRANT THE STUDY OF THE HISTORICAL TRIANGLE AND THE BUILDINGS THEREIN TO DETERMINE POSSIBLE CULTURAL, PUBLIC USES, FURTHER THAT THE CITY DEVELOP A HISTORIC LANDMARKS AND BUILDINGS SURVEY AND PRESERVATION PROGRAM.

Since the inception of the committee's work, much attention has been directed to the City's Historic Triangle, reflected in part by the Committee on Culture's budget request during the FY 84/85 revenue sharing hearings.

The subcommittee on Historic Benicia unearthed the history of local attempts to create historic district on First Street. We understand that work is under way currently to find State and Federal monies to conduct feasibility studies on possible cultural uses for the Historic Triangle buildings. We applaud these efforts. This document, we are told, will in fact be utilized by the State Coastal Conservancy in developing a case for the funding of a planning grant. Of prime importance to the Coastal Conservancy is the assurance that local citizens are interested and involved in the development of their urban waterfront land.

Opinion survey responses indicate that 39 percent of the respondents believe the Triangle would be a good site for cultural center. While the subcommittee on Space concluded that the area lacks parking spaces and the capacity for a complete cultural center, the majority of the Committee agrees that a professional should be consulted about the area's potential for public use. This, it is hoped, can be accomplished through the Coastal Conservancy grant.

One concept for the Depot building would be to combine an educational high quality shop with an exhibition space, all run by the "Friends of the Art" group for the benefit of arts programming in the city. It would have the advantage of setting a high standard (not necessarily high priced) of quality on the commercial end of the spectrum for the Marina Area, while providing an opportunity to educate both visitors and citizens about what is available culturally in Benicia: The Historic Museum and Cultural Foundation at the Camel Barns, BOTTG and so forth. At the same time, it could provide a place in the Marina area for citizens of the community who may not be boat-oriented.

A historic landmarks and buildings survey and preservation program is critical to the preservation of Benicia's historic buildings. Current efforts by the City to obtain State and Federal monies to initiate such programs should be monitored and followed through by the proposed Cultural Commission.

RECOMMENDATION VII

THAT THE CITY SET ASIDE LAND AND PROCEED WITH PLANS FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A CITY LIBRARY/CIVIC ARTS COMPLEX (CULTURAL CENTER)

The opinion survey showed that an overwhelming 74 percent of the respondents want to have a cultural center in Benicia. In discussions with Library Board representatives, and local arts groups, along with the exhaustive research conducted by Space Subcommittee, the need for a cultural center coupled with a library became apparent.

The Space Subcommittee was unanimous in its recommendation that land near Mary Farmar School, currently for sale by the School District, would be an excellent location for a combined library/civic arts center. Other Committee members, however, felt that this effort would be long range and that currently held City property should be considered before recommending that a land purchase be made.

Recently the City announced that the Council is considering selling part of Sanborn Field to the Post Office and reserving the remainder for a library/cultural center. While not as large as the Mary Farmar site, it may be more attainable. Careful study of the sites by an architect experienced in the development of community cultural centers would be imperative prior to any firm decision. (Questions such as how large a cultural center the community could support and what specific facilities ought to be included need to be answered.)

The opinion survey showed that people would opt for a mix of funding sources to build a cultural center: 52 percent for private funding, 31 percent for funding through bond issues, 30 percent for funding from the City/County tax revenues, and 45 percent for funding from state and federal grants. Further data on funding sources can be found in the Funding Subcommittee report.

CONCLUSION

The history of civilization clearly demonstrates that during epochs which hosted the greatest civilizations, culture was given the highest consideration. Culture was considered a human service as important for the growth of a healthy society as adequate food, clothing and shelter. In today's computer age we are prone to justify our involvement in areas that are easy to quantify; easy to measure in terms of their net effect on the community. If we have an adequate fire department we will have less fires and fire insurance will cost a specific number of dollars less, as an example.

In areas that deal with the human spirit, areas not easy to quantify, difficulties arise; that difficulty does not nullify culture's importance, nor our responsibility to nurture it in our community. Benicia has concentrated its efforts on physical growth. The "human" efforts have been directed to sports activities, by and large. Our concern is that there are now in the community a large number of people whose needs extend beyond sports activities -- to the arts, in the broadest sense.

Our research indicated that in terms of the size of the community and our city budget, we are at the point where other cities have formed some sort of Cultural Commission or Arts Council, and we are the point where the citizens of the community can form a cohesive private, non-profit arts support group. In this context it appears to us that it is time for Benicia to set aside land for a cultural/community center that might also include a new library as well as an art center, community meeting room and perhaps even a performing arts center.

The following timeline is proposed:

- DECEMBER - Report presented to Council
- JANUARY - Hire consultant re: Cultural Commission
- FEBRUARY - Hold public hearing on report (consultant present)
- MARCH - Receive recommendations from consultant
- APRIL - Appoint Cultural Commission

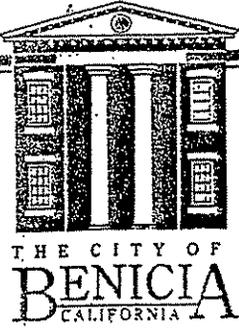
In addition:

Culture should be given every consideration during budget planning;

Efforts on behalf on Historic Benicia, especially the Historic Triangle, should be continued;

A staff person should be appointed to do thorough research on state and federal grant monies.

While it must be remembered that we were a citizens committee whose prescription may change according to information that may not have been available to us, we believe that our diagnosis is sound: Culture and the Arts have not been given the City support that our growing community needs. Now is the time for change.



CITY HALL • 250 EAST L STREET • BENICIA, CA. 94510 • (707) 745-0510

May 17, 1984

Dear

"Culture, the acquainting ourselves with the best that has been known and said in the world, and thus with the history of the human spirit."

Matthew Arnold

The Mayor's Committee on Culture was officially created by the Benicia City Council at its May 1, 1984 meeting. This group is entrusted with the following responsibilities:

- o to assess our rich cultural heritage and resources,
- o to assess and evaluate current activities, programs, opportunities and efforts in Benicia,
- o to assess and evaluate philosophies, activities and efforts underway in other communities,
- o to make recommendations in these regards to the Benicia City Council at its first meeting in September.

On May 15, 1984, the members of the Mayor's Committee on Culture were announced (a list accompanies this letter).

We are delighted that you have agreed to accept this challenge. The enthusiasm engendered simply by the announcement of the formation of this Committee is testimony both to the need and to the prognosis for success.

We look forward to seeing you at the first meeting:

7:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 22, 1984 in Council Chambers, City Hall.

Marilyn C. O'Rourke
Mayor

Sandra Shannonhouse
Chairperson

Mayors Committee on Culture: Sub Committees

SPACE: To assess and evaluate both public and private spaces, used and spaces, that are or could be used for cultural activities; to determine the community's needs in terms of space.

Doris Piercy, Chr.

Betty Sandin

Meghan Collins

Dan Johnson

Priscilla Burdt

PEOPLE: To assess and evaluate the involvement and needs of the members of the community in cultural activities. Groups, individuals, businesses, school activities, etc., should be included:

Leslye Asera, Chr.

Peggy Martin

Lurline Stauber

Gladys Wold

Joe Morel

FUNDING: To examine public and private sources of funds, such as grants, "Percent for culture," revenue sharing, the city budget, etc.

Pat Schroeder, Chr.

Bill Concannon

Charlie Alves

OTHER COMMUNITIES: To study and asses the cultural organization of other communities as a way of helping to determine Benicia's possibilities.

Kathy Erteman, Chr.

Mary Julia Klimenko

Bob Arneson

Barbara Navolanic

Mike Brown

HISTORIC BENICIA: To assess the community's cultural heritage particularly in terms of historic structures.

Mary Julia Klimenko, Chr.

Pat Schroeder

Peggy Martin

Sandra Shannonhouse

STAFF PERSON: Del Lacey, Planning Department

CHAIRPERSON: Sandra Shannonhouse

EXHIBIT C

ARTS ELEMENT FOR THE GENERAL PLAN

The Arts Element is intended to recognize the need for the City of Davis to accept a fair share of the responsibility for the artistic and cultural development of its citizens. The Arts are a creative means of self-expression and understanding consisting of the general areas of visual arts, performing arts, and literary arts. Art programs and facilities in these areas should encourage the active participation of all the citizens in this valuable aspect of their daily lives.

GOAL - To provide opportunities for the artistic and cultural development of its citizens.

Objective #1: To develop and maintain an environment that encourages diverse program activity in the Arts.

- Policies:
1. Provide, through an advisory Arts Commission, a forum for arts concerns and recommendations to the elected officials and their staff concerning arts issues.
 2. Continue the development of the concept of contracting for cultural services with local arts organizations and individual artists.
 3. Confirm the City's role where necessary in coordinating the diverse arts opportunities offered by the community.
 4. Encourage citizens to take advantage of the arts programming offered by other agencies and institutions in the community.
 5. Provide financial assistance whenever feasible to groups or individuals who provide public arts programming to the citizens.
 6. Encourage university and community cooperation in the programming of artistic and cultural events and opportunities.

Objective #2: To develop and expand City arts facilities to better meet the needs of the organizations that provide arts services through the use of City facilities.

Policies:

1. Encourage cooperative arrangements between the City and other agencies, local, state, and federal, to provide needed arts facilities for the City.
2. Encourage the planning and development of new or augmented arts facilities as may be needed.

Objective #3:

To expand the City's role in providing works of art in public places.

Policies:

1. Encourage private businesses to display works of art in their public areas as well as encourage private funding to support all areas of the Arts.
2. Encourage cooperative arrangements between the City and other agencies, local, state, and federal, to provide works of fine art for display in public places.

GOAL - To facilitate the active participation of all citizens in developing their creative skills and an appreciation for the Arts.

Objective #1:

To cooperate with and coordinate efforts between local organizations, private and public educational institutions, in providing a range of experience essential to a well-rounded cultural milieu.

Policies:

1. Provide assistance whenever possible to organizations that provide an arts educational experience to the citizens.
2. Provide direction, encouragement, and support for the continued development of a variety of arts activities in the city.
3. Maintain a wide range of programs that develop the skills of the participants at all levels of creative expression.

GOAL -

Acknowledge the accomplishments of those artists who have specialized knowledge and skills of their profession.

Objective #1: To develop public and private spaces that are compatible with the display of art works.

- Policies:
1. Facilitate the utilization of free public exhibition spaces.
 2. Encourage citizens to view and/or participate in the various local displays or art works.
 3. Foster private and public funding of art exhibits and performances.

Objective #2 To encourage the development of spaces that are compatible with the needs of studio artists, craftspersons, and performing artists.

- Policies:
1. Encourage cooperative funding arrangements to provide suitable space for art studios and rehearsal halls at a rental rate that artists can afford.

ACTION PROGRAM

1. Continue the acquisition of funds in the municipal Art Fund through implementation of Ordinance 720 providing for 1 percent capital improvement projects for purchase or commission of works of art in public places, as well as encourage private funding in all areas of the Arts.
2. Give priority in the City Arts budget to the maintaining and expanding of the facilities at the Veterans' Memorial Theatre for use by community performing groups.
3. Develop rehearsal, shop, and storage space accessible to those using the Veterans' Memorial Theatre.
4. Determine needs and existing supply of studio spaces for:
 - A. Studio artists
 - B. Craftspersons
 - C. Dance rehearsals
 - D. Music rehearsals
 - E. Living/working combinations
5. Work with the Community Development staff and commissions to incorporate art studio spaces into future commercial, industrial, residential, and public projects and into appropriate zoning controls.

6. Investigate ways of providing specialized studio spaces (such as sprung floor for dance) to be available to artists at an affordable rate.
7. Search for ways to provide arts experience not presently available in Davis.
8. Encourage the formation of a membership Arts Council as a common ground for the variety of arts organizations in Davis.
9. Continue to search for appropriate grant programs to provide implementation tools for local Arts projects.

REPORT OF THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON PEOPLE

The committee used two vehicles to gather information from the citizenry: a resident opinion survey, mailed to each residence, and a public information hearing that was televised courtesy of Century Cable. As a professional survey taker had told us to expect no more than 2 percent of the surveys to be returned, we were delighted to actually receive 5.3 percent. It is interesting to note that people used the survey to comment on a wide variety of topics. Although much of what they said did not pertain to culture in a strict sense, their comments do reflect what they feel are some of Benicia's pressing needs. It is very clear that people feel that we need to expand the range of activities available in Benicia.

While we recommend that anyone seriously studying this report read through the actual surveys, the major areas of significance bear discussing. 74 percent of the respondents would be in favor of having a community cultural center, 11 percent would not be in favor of it, and 15 percent did not respond to the question. People would be in favor of a mixed funding for such a center. 52 percent through private monies, 31 percent for bonds, 30 percent for tax revenues, and 45 percent for grants. Although specific sites for a center were not discussed, general areas were: 39 percent for the Historical Triangle, 22 percent for the Marina, 18 percent for City Hall area, 11 percent for the Industrial Park, 8 percent for Solano Square, and 7 percent for Southampton.

Another area of particular interest was the length of residence question: 52 percent of the respondents have lived in Benicia for five years or less, 18 percent between 5 and 10 years, 13 percent between 10 and 20 years, and 10 percent for more than 20 years. This would seem to indicate that there are major concerns among those relatively new to Benicia. The most commented upon area was the library, with 6 1/2 percent of the respondents see it as a resource in need of improvement.

A copy of the survey is included herewith. The public information hearing was held after most of the opinion surveys had been returned. Forty people attended, including Mayor O'Rourke and Senator Barry Keene. There was general support for the development of a Cultural Commission and a Cultural Center. There were also admonishments to focus and to develop priorities. Several cultural groups were represented and voiced their support.

Although there was a question on the survey regarding groups and clubs, it did not prove to offer an adequate survey of what cultural activities are ongoing in the community or of the needs of specific organizations. We recommend that one of the initial tasks of the proposed Cultural Commission be to produce a written inventory of local arts and cultural groups and individuals working in the arts, and to determine how the commission can be of assistance to each group.



City of Benicia
Mayor's Committee on Culture
250 East L St.
Benicia, Ca. 94510

BULK RATE
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 11
Benicia, CA

TIME VALUE

What's Your Cultural Dream for Benicia?
Everyone has an opinion:
WE NEED YOURS!

Residential Postal Customer
Benicia, California 94510

MAILED: 7500
RETURNED: 398 = 5.3 %

Come to the Public Hearing on Benicia's Cultural Needs
August 14, 7:30 p.m. City Council Chambers

We Need Your Opinion Please read, fill out and return as soon as possible.

Benicia's Mayor Marilyn O'Rourke has appointed a committee to explore the cultural needs of Benicia residents. We feel the best way to do this is to ask YOUR opinion. We also welcome any additional input you may have in this regard.

About You

	%	No	Do You?	Yes	No
Number in household under 25 years	()	308	Read Newspapers	388	20
25-50	()	466	Watch TV	342	28
over 50	()	162	Go to the movies	260	61
Household Income (check one)			Go to plays, musicals	252	67
under \$15,000	(6)	23	Follow sports events	236	102
\$15-\$25,000	(15)	60			
\$25-\$50,000	(47)	186	Are You?	118	174
over \$50,000	(26)	105	A film buff		
Education level of household			A collector (trains, dolls, stamps, antiques, coins)	151	165
Grammar-High School	(14)	55	A history buff	157	144
some college	(31)	123	A reader	313	57
college degree	(52)	205	A writer, poet	80	220
further studies	(40)	159	A musician, song writer	88	210
Are there commuters in your home	(51%)	201	yes	86	213
		no	no	39	242
Cultural heritage			An artist, sculptor	179	131
Length of residence in Benicia _____ yrs			An actor, actress, mime		
			Arts supporter	86	101
			A season ticket holder to opera, symphony, theatre		

Community Meets

To what groups or clubs do you belong?	Where do you meet?	How often?
0-5 YEARS : 52%		
5-10 YEARS : 18%		
10-20 YEARS : 13%		
20+ YEARS : 10%		

Would you be in favor of having a community cultural center in Benicia? 295 Yes 42 No 15% REFUSAL

Would you approve if it were to be funded by:
207 (52%) Private funding 122 (31%) Bond Issues 11 (2%) City/county tax revenues 179 (45%) Federal/State grants

What area do you think would be best for the location of this cultural center?
155 (39%) Historic Triangle 88 (22%) Marina 30 (8%) Solano Square Other _____
29 (7%) Southampton 44 (11%) Industrial Park 75 (18%) City Hall area _____

Existing Events

Benicia is fortunate to have many cultural events. Please mark: (1) The ones you have been to (2) Events you would attend again (3) Events you intended to support but missed for some reason.

1	2	3		1	2	3	
127	163	161	Christmas at the Clock Tower	33	25	87	Art Explosion
179	153	72	Arts in the Park	86	75	67	School music programs
123	110	85	Yuba (Glass Studio) Open House	54	57	67	School drama programs
163	80	67	Kan McElroy (Master Potter) Open House	138	136	100	Benicia Old Town Theatre Group (BOTTG) dinner-theatre
243	221	47	Peddlers Fair				Merchants Christmas Open House - First St.
160	166	65	Handicraft Fair	92	82	96	Artists co-op (Tyler St. BIP) open house
56	55	113	Merchants Country Fair - Bluegrass Festival	45	40	83	Other
28	26	81	Bronze Seal Poetry Readings				

REPORT OF SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE

USE OF EXISTING STRUCTURES FOR CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

FINDINGS:

- I. SPACE RENTALS
 - A. PRIVATELY OWNED
 1. MANY SUCH CLASSIFICATION AREAS AVAILABLE (See attached survey sheets)
 2. COSTLY RENTAL FEES
 3. LACK OF ADEQUATE PARKING
 - B. PUBLIC (CITY OWNED) (See attached survey sheets)
 1. AVAILABLE AT COST
 2. NOT ALL ADAPTABLE TO CULTURAL USE BY THE COMMUNITY
 3. ADEQUATE PARKING NOT AVAILABLE IN SEVERAL SITES
 4. SHORT TERM USE

THE ACQUISITION OF AVAILABLE LAND FOR COMMUNITY CULTURAL USE

- I. MARY FARMAR SCHOOL LAND (See attached survey sheet)
 - A. WITHOUT HAVING TO ADAPT TO EXISTING STRUCTURES, WE HAVE ANS OPEN FUTURE TO BUILD A CAREFULLY FLANNED, ARCHITECTURALLY UNIFIED MULTI-PURPOSE CULTURAL COMPLEX FOR COMMUNITY USE.
 1. ADVANTAGES
 - a. Centrally located and visible to entire community.
 - b. Easy access by auto for local and regional visitors.
 - c. Ample space for parking.
 - d. Attainable revenues upon space rental fees.

CONCLUSION: IT IS THE CONSENSUS OF THIS SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE THAT THE CULTURAL TASK FORCE CONCENTRATE ON PROVIDING A MUCH NEEDED AND CAREFULLY PLANNED EDIFICE FOR THE ARTISTIC, EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITIZENS OF BENICIA.

CULTURAL PROGRAMS AND FACILITIES IN THE AREAS OF VISUAL ARTS, PERFORMING ARTS AND LITERARY ARTS SHOULD ENCOURAGE THE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION OF ALL THE CITIZENS IN THIS VALUABLE ASPECT OF THEIR DAILY LIVES.

PROPOSAL:

TO COORDINATE EFFORTS BETWEEN THE CITY OF BENICIA,
BENICIA UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT, LOCAL
ORGANIZATIONS AND THE CITIZENS OF BENICIA TO PLACE
IN A COMMON FUND COLLATERAL NECESSARY FOR THE
COMBINED UNDERTAKING OF PURCHASING. THE MARY
FARMER SHCOOL SITE FOR THE PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION
OF A CIVIC ARTS CENTER IN BENICIA.

BETTY SANDIN
MEGHAN COLLINS
DAN JOHNSON
DORIS PIERCY, CHR.

SEPTEMBER 10, 1984

To the Committee: Members of Benicia City Council
The Honorable Mayor Marilyn C. O'Rourke

RE: Proposal for Civic Arts Center in Benicia

Proposal for:

Benicia Civic Arts Center
Benicia Civic Center
Carquinez Cultural Center
North Bay Arts Center
Solano Arts Center
Jack London Center for the Arts
Other Famous Benicia Name? Center
(please rack your brains for attractive names)

In pursuing their search for available land or existing facilities for a cultural center for Benicia, members of the Space Committee have formed the following optimum plan:

Site: Seventeen and one half acres of open terrain presently owned (and now up for sale) by the Mary Farmar Elementary School. The site is bounded to the west by the school, to the north by Interstate 780, to the east by Benicia View subdivision, and to the south by Military West.

Advantages of the Site:

Without having to adapt to existing structures, we have an open future to build a carefully planned, architecturally unified multi-purpose complex.

The view typifies and emphasizes the natural beauty of Benicia and our area.

Easy access by auto for local and regional visitors.

Ample space for parking.

Possibility for an outdoor amphitheater to stage such events as the proposed Benicia Historical Pageant, summer concerts, exhibitions sports, and outdoor auctions.

Space for parklike setting with outdoor sculpture, gardens, picnic areas.

Suggested Facilities:

- A. A 650 seat theater:
with scene shop
storage space for sets and costumes
- B. A large meeting room:
with complete kitchen facilities
with wall space for art
with tables and chairs for dinners
with a dance-floor
- C. Complete library facilities
- D. An exhibition gallery for paintings and sculpture
- E. Classrooms:
for music and dance
for arts and crafts
for ceramics
- F. Additional City Offices:
the planning department, parks and
recreation, _____ could well have their
offices here.

Possible revenues:

rental of theater for plays, lectures, business seminars,
concerts

rental of meeting room and kitchen for private events:
business groups, weddings, private parties, fundraising
events

rental of amphitheater for concerts, antique auctions

Meghan Collins
1749 Valarie Ct.
Benicia, CA 94510
746-5344

REPORT FROM THE SUBCOMMITTEE ON FUNDING AND OTHER COMMUNITIES.

Form a commission to oversee cultural activities, projects, facilities.

Basic administrative needs of the Cultural Commission are to be paid by the City of Benicia.

City funded organization provides eligibility for grant funds from the State and Federal Government.

Once a commission is established with city funding and corporate/private support, application for state and federal grants can begin. The two grants that were found to be most applicable to Benicia were: (1) California Arts Council Artistic and Administrative Development Grant which is awarded on an ongoing yearly basis once the City qualifies and (2) National Endowment for the Arts Test Program of Support for Local Arts Agencies known as "Local Test."

Designate a percent of the Hotel/Bed Tax to go toward support for the Cultural Commission

Consider a Voluntary Arts Fund by which property owners have an opportunity to support community Arts, by adding an additional \$5.00 or more to their property tax check, as is done in San Francisco and San Diego.

Establish a non-profit "Friends of the Art" support group to enable fund raising from foundations, corporations and other private sources. Funds would be used only for programs.

Consult with Bill Moskin of the Sacramento Arts Commission when ready to establish and structure a commission

XX A Municipal Arts Gallery and Shop can be an additional source of funds to support the programs.

Funding goal: a balanced partnership between city funding, private business and industry, and state and federal grants.

General Philosophy :

- promote artistic enrichment as well as leisure time activity,
- promote community-wide cultural enrichment that generates revenue

Initial Projects:

- establish an art gallery/shop (Historic Triangle,)
- establish artist-in-residence/artist workshops in public schools,
- establish a support system to aid already existing community arts organizations.

FUNDING DATA - ARTS PROGRAMS OF OTHER COMMUNITIES

CITY	CITY FUNDED	PRIVATE NON-PROFIT	MEMBERSHIPS	FUND DRIVES-RAISERS	COMMERCIAL EARNED VENTURES / INCOME	PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS	PUBLIC/PRIVATE PARTNERSHIP	STATE GRANT (\$)	FEDERAL GRANT (\$)	PRIVATE FOUNDATION GRANTS	YEAR STARTED	POPULATION THEN	PROGRAM BUDGET THEN	CITY BUDGET THEN	POPULATION NOW	PROGRAM BUDGET NOW	CITY BUDGET NOW	DOLLARS PER CAPITA BUDGETED IN 1984
FRESNO	•	•	•	•	•	•	•				1949	-	-	500K	\$ 600K	-	1.20	
DAVIS	•										1971	22 K	\$33K	\$4.8M	38K	\$86K	\$14M	2.26
SACRAMENTO	•										1977	263K	\$40K	101M	303K	\$ 0K	\$120M	1.16
WALNUT CREEK	•										1963	20K	\$15K	-	58K	\$660K	\$205M	11.38
CONCORD	•										1976	-	-	109K	-	-	-	-
SANTA MONICA	•										1982	89K	\$82K	80M	92K	\$100K	\$115M	1.09
VACAVILLE	•	•									1966	19 K	54 K ^①	900K	50K	45K	16M	.60
SANTA CRUZ	•	•									1976	250 K	450K	19M	43K	1.8M	43M	41.86
VALLEJO	•										1971	72 K	17 K ^②	8.7M	88K	22 K	40M	.25
SAN RAFAEL	•										1977	45 K	50K	9.9M	45 K	107K	-	2.38
RICHMOND	•										1936	18 K	-	-	75 K	30K	80M	.40
STOCKTON	•										1976	125 K	50 K	26 M	168 K	100K	59 M	.60

① The \$54000 budgeted the Vacaville Parks & Rec. Dept. allotted an "unspecified amount" to the Cultural Program in 1966.

② \$17500 budgeted in Vallejo (1971) amongst 5 social programs, one of which was the Cultural Program.

In 1978, Cultural Program was budgeted \$25000... (first year funds were specifically allotted)

A SYNOPSIS OF INFORMATION ON EACH COMMUNITY STUDIED IS ON FILE IN THE CITY MANAGER'S OFFICE

Not all figures were readily available from each city.

Report of the Subcommittee on Historic Benicia

The committee on Historic Benicia was appointed several weeks after the other subcommittees. During the initial stages of the research on Other Communities, it became clear that there were Culteral Heritage and Historical resources in town that needed a great deal of immediate attention. Of primary concern was the Historic Triangle and the buildings contained therein. A chronology of related efforts follows:

- June: Contact and initial conversations with Jane Ellison, Assistant Director, National Trust for Historic Preservation, San Francisco. Revenue Sharing funds were requested for a feasibility study to be done on the buildings in the Historic Triangle and their possible cultural uses. (6/2/84) - Presentation to Council, RE: Historical Triangle, possible sources of funding, significance to the City and to cultural activities in the City. (6/19/84) - Contact was made with Nadine Hitchcock of the California Coastal Conservancy, RE: How the Conservancy could help Historic Benicia.
- July: Arranged a meeting in Benicia with Jane Ellison, Nadine Hitchcock, City Manager John Silva, and Parks and Recreation Director Mike Alvarez, to discuss possibilities for Historic Benicia and the Historic Triangle in particular, and to encourage communication between the groups represented. Mrs. Ellison was given a tour of the interior of the Lido and the Depot by Mr. Alvarez. She was able to send the City a packet of information pertinent to Historic Benicia.
- Aug: Work began on the application for a Coastal Conservancy Grant, which will be ruled on December 20, 1984.
- Oct: Both the City Council and the County Board of Supervisors voted to endorse the placing of the following buildings on the California Register as Points of Historical Interest: Von Pfister Adobe, Southern Pacific Passenger Depot, Jurgensen House, and Jurgensen Old Corner Saloon. The City Council, in response to a formal request form the Waterfront Commission, appointed Councilman Roetzer to investigate "what can be done to protect these city owned buildings from further damage this winter."

Nov:

The State Historical Resources on November 2, 1984, unanimously and without question accepted Benicia's application to have the above four buildings placed on the California Register as Points of Historical Interest, making it possible for the City to apply for Prop. 18 funds for rehabilitation. Also, the City is now eligible for CAL Trans freeway markers for Points of Historical Interest.

The City allocated \$540.00 to hire Adobe to clean up the interior of the buildings in the Historical Triangle. A massive volunteer effort was organized to clean up the exteriors of the buildings. Debris filled eleven dumpsters, donated by Bay Shore Disposal, at \$125.00 each. A trust account, the Benicia Historical Restoration Fund was established at the Bank of America, with Chuck Mattson, Peggy Martin, and Hank Howard as trustees. Out of the initial donations of \$600.00, \$485.00 was spent to pay Adobe for their efforts, on the exterior of the buildings.

The City is working on an application for Prop. 18 funds that must be post-marked by December 31, 1984. If the application is approved, the funds would not be available until July 1985.

An application was made to the Federal Government through the State Resources Agency for a matching grant to do a comprehensive Cultural/Historical Survey (Inventory) of 1847-1940 buildings, sites and historically/culturally significant places in Benicia. This survey would build upon previous HABS studies, and be a comprehensive document. It would be the first step in proposing an Nationally Registered Historic District, thereby opening the way for tax incentives for private property owners to restore their historic structures.

It is our recommendation that the City include as an element to the Coastal Conservancy Planning Grant the Study of the Historic Triangle and the Buildings therein, to determine their possible public and cultural uses. This committee believes that the buildings can be used for a high quality gallery/shop, run by a non-profit group for the purpose of educating the public about the cultural activities in Benicia while raising money to support those activities. The spaces could also be used as an interim cultural center while a more appropriate center is developed, and perhaps for much needed offices of the various commissions that are pertinent to the area.

Other information that could be acquired under the planning grant include: engineering and soils data, preservation/restoration methodology and techniques for the structures, as well as a master park plan for the 2.2 acre site tying it in to the adjacent waterfront and to First Street.

We further recommend that the City develop a Historic Landmarks and Buildings survey and preservation program. An organization of interested citizens, under the umbrella of the proposed cultural commission, would insure that Benicia does not again lose its way in this important area. There are guidelines available, if the City so wishes, to establish a certified local program which returns to the City control of local historical resources in cooperation with State and Federal preservation efforts.

