



December 15, 2021

Dear Arts and Culture Field:

After assessing that there had been long-standing inequities in the arts and culture sector, Supervisor Hilda L. Solis authored a motion, passed in 2015, directing the LA County Arts Commission (now the LA County Department of Arts and Culture (Arts and Culture)) to identify constructive ways to “enhance the participation and leadership of individuals from underrepresented communities in the arts,” focused on leadership, staffing, programming and audience composition.

This comprehensive analysis resulted in the establishment of the Cultural Equity and Inclusion Initiative (CEII). In June of 2017, the Board unanimously adopted the thirteen recommendations set forth by the CEII, and, through a motion by Supervisors Hilda L. Solis and Sheila Kuehl, voted to fund four of the thirteen recommendations included in the CEII report, which Arts and Culture subsequently launched. One of those funded recommendations was to establish a Countywide Cultural Policy (Cultural Policy) to provide a roadmap with concrete elements focused on equity, diversity, inclusion, and access, setting out the ways in which all LA County Departments can contribute to cultural life by ensuring that every resident has access to arts and culture.

To ensure that the Cultural Policy represented the needs and opportunities of all communities throughout the County, Arts and Culture sought input from a diverse group of stakeholders in the development of the policy. Through this process, Arts and Culture engaged hundreds of community members, documented and integrated stakeholder feedback, and worked closely with the Board and other County departments to draft the Cultural Policy.

On June 23, 2020, Supervisors Solis and Kuehl authored a motion to adopt the [Countywide Cultural Policy](#) (Cultural Policy) and on April 20, 2021 directed the CEO to identify funding for an Arts and Culture Needs Assessment (Needs Assessment).

Understanding the potential impacts of the Cultural Policy requires the development of a baseline knowledge of where County resources are currently allocated. The [Needs Assessment](#) is being administered with the following scope:

- A landscape analysis and asset mapping of County-supported arts and culture facilities, programming, and resources to identify where there might be gaps and areas of need.
- Work with CEO and relevant Departments to generate a list of County buildings, facilities, and sites by Department and district that could be made available to artists, arts organizations, and others for cultural and creative uses and could incorporate arts programming, such as installations of public art works, to increase accessibility by the public and County staff.
- Engage Departments on assessing available existing resources and identify needs for

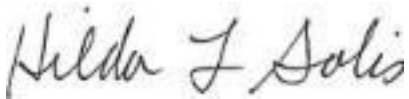
additional resources.

- Benchmark County funding levels and investments in arts and culture in relation to population size, geography, and demographics to ensure that new resources will increase equity in access to the arts.
- Identify potential funding sources to resource the policy.
- Create an interactive map or data visualization that is accessible by the public.

The Needs Assessment will inform the Strategic Plan that is being developed by Arts and Culture. As with the development of the Cultural Policy, Arts and Culture is seeking input from a broad and diverse group of stakeholders to ensure the strategies that are reflected in the report back accurately represent the field perspective.

We thank you for participating in this survey and look forward to seeing the final Strategic Plan.

Sincerely



HILDA L. SOLIS  
Supervisor, First District



SHEILA KUEHL  
Supervisor, Third District