

**Fw: [EXT]BOS Meeting 8/18/20 - Letters of Support SLOCAC**

AD-Board-Clerk <ad\_board\_clerk@co.slo.ca.us>

Mon 8/17/2020 02:16 PM

To: Vicki Janssen <vjanssen@co.slo.ca.us>; Micki Olinger <molinger@co.slo.ca.us>; Caleb Mott <cmott@co.slo.ca.us>; Blake Fixler <bfixler@co.slo.ca.us>; Lynn Compton <lcompton@co.slo.ca.us>; Bruce Gibson <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>; District 3 <district3@co.slo.ca.us>

📎 2 attachments (1 MB)

DSLO\_Support\_Letter\_Arts\_Obispo.docx; Crissa\_Hewitt\_SLOCountyArts\_Letter.pdf;

Correspondence received.

**Sincerely,**

**Clerk of the Board Team**

Administrative Office, County of San Luis Obispo

1055 Monterey St., Ste. D430 | San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Tel: (805) 781-1045 | Fax: (805) 781-5023

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**From:** Edel Mitchell <edel.mitchell@artsobispo.org>

**Sent:** Monday, August 17, 2020 02:07 PM

**To:** AD-Board-Clerk <ad\_board\_clerk@co.slo.ca.us>

**Subject:** [EXT]BOS Meeting 8/18/20 - Letters of Support SLOCAC

**ATTENTION:** This email originated from outside the County's network. Use caution when opening attachments or links.

Hello,

BOS meeting 8/18/20

Agenda Item #3

Attached are letters of support from the community for the SLO County Arts Council funding from the County regarding **agenda item #3** for tomorrow's Board of Supervisors meeting. SLO County Arts will be requesting grant funding for our SLP matching grant from the Other Agency Requests grant funding.

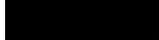
Let me know if you have any questions!

--

Edel Mitchell

Project Coordinator

The San Luis Obispo County Arts Council



# Crissa Hewitt

Jewelry  
Holloware

July 29, 2020

Dear California Arts Council,

This letter is in support of San Luis Obispo County Arts Council (Previously known as "The Arts Council" and "ARTS Obispo") yearly grant application. I have been a member for over 20 years, a board member for two terms, a regular financial supporter for many years, and a 20 year participant in the Open Studios Art Tour.

San Luis Obispo County is an area rich in artists who create in a full spectrum of disciplines, including visual, theater, music, dance, poetry/literature and film. Many of the local organizations that foster and promote area talent are non-profits whose roots can be traced to the passion and dedication of several residents who worked to create organizations devoted to promoting these arts disciplines. This activity began in the 1940s, long before there was a local Arts Council. The focus was on sharing skills, showcasing their work, and creating events for the public. Today, due to the vision and collective (mostly volunteer) efforts of these forward thinkers and the many who have carried on their vision, the County has a rich aesthetic environment enjoyed by residents and visitors.

With the formation of the Arts Council in 1982, there began a broader interest in the coordination of these arts organizations so as to maximize public awareness of their offerings. The Arts Council created a leadership committee consisting of directors from all the groups. Besides the important function of getting to know each other, one of their early accomplishments was to create a yearly calendar of their events. This helped minimize duplication of dates and provided a vehicle for promotion both locally and around the state.

The Arts Council, aka ARTS Obispo, took on the responsibility of creating some county wide events that were outside the purview of specific organizations. These include "Poetry Out Loud", County wide "Open Studios Art Tour" for the visual arts; and Art After Dark, a monthly array of galleries featuring a meet the artists and see their work. These regular events are sometimes augmented with other activities including talks and/or music. In the past, the Arts Council awarded research grants to non-profits and to individuals.

Currently, the organization is rebranding and evaluating existing programs to improve visibility and coordination throughout this geographically large County. SLO (as we often

call ourselves) is in fact a collection of many cities and communities that feature their arts in distinctive ways. In the beginning, it was too easy to focus primarily on happenings in the city of San Luis Obispo. Fortunately, over the last several years, the agenda has been to feature a much more inclusive awareness of the County.

I am excited by our current much needed evaluation and restructuring process. An important step will be the renaming including a return to the inclusion of Arts Council in the title. This renewed clarification of name and purpose will strengthen the valuable function of providing essential coordinated direction and support for our impressive arts community here in San Luis Obispo County.

Sincerely,

*Crissa Hewitt*

Crissa Hewitt,  
artist, teacher, financial supporter, volunteer, and previous Board member.



Hilary Amnah, Arts Program Specialist  
California Arts Council

October 24, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of Downtown SLO, the association that represents 625+ businesses in downtown San Luis Obispo, it is my pleasure to provide this letter of support for Arts Obispo to continue in their important partnership with the California Arts Council through the State/Local Arts Partner program.

Arts Obispo provides programs and services that benefit the entire County of San Luis Obispo, but this letter will address the public/private partnerships and activation Arts Obispo brings to Downtown San Luis Obispo through its monthly Art After Dark. We have been a marketing and promotional partner for this event for more than a decade, and we hear from our business members that they depend on the monthly Friday night experience to bring new customers into their spaces and develop creative relationships with local businesses.

During Art After Dark, shops stay open and there is an uptick of 10-15% in pedestrian traffic downtown. In addition to the small groups of people consulting their maps and charting their paths, there's more creative activity on the streets as well. Local buskers perform and sidewalk musicians know that Art After Dark will be a busy night. Furthermore, the restaurants benefit as well, as Art After Dark drives customers to dine in their establishments.

This month, our organization was a participant in Art After Dark, after many years of promoting the event. We recently moved from a second-story walkup office to a streetfront location, and our Cultural Arts Committee curated a special exhibit of Downtown creatives with a call for artists to all people who work downtown. Our walls are now adorned with photographs by a pizzeria manager, encaustic work by a bartender, woodblock prints by a receptionist at an architecture firm, and photojournalism by a computer programmer.

We had an estimated 200 people come through our doors during the three hours of the event, and it was a remarkable, diverse group of people. These are 200 people who would not have otherwise visited our office, and it presented a wonderful opportunity for us to tell the story of who we are. We have always seen the value of promoting Art After Dark, but participating it was an eye-opening, extremely positive experience.

ARTS Obispo's work is essential to San Luis Obispo County. And it is essential to Downtown. We know that when artists show up, amazing things happen, and ARTS Obispo is critical to making the invitation.

Sincerely yours,

Bettina Swigger, Chief Executive Officer  
Downtown SLO  
bettina@DowntownSLO.com

[Redacted]

| Fax: (805) 781-2647  
Agenda Item No. 3  
Meeting Date: August 18, 2020  
Presented By: Board of Supervisors Office  
Received and Posted: August 17, 2020  
Page 4 of 5

Fw: [EXT] left a voice mail also

AD-Board-Clerk <ad\_board\_clerk@co.slo.ca.us>

Mon 8/17/2020 04:59 PM

To: Vicki Janssen <vjanssen@co.slo.ca.us>; Micki Olinger <molinger@co.slo.ca.us>; Caleb Mott <cmott@co.slo.ca.us>; Blake Fixler <bfixler@co.slo.ca.us>; Lynn Compton <lcompton@co.slo.ca.us>; Bruce Gibson <bgibson@co.slo.ca.us>; District 3 <district3@co.slo.ca.us>

Correspondence received.

Sincerely,

Clerk of the Board Team

Administrative Office, County of San Luis Obispo

1055 Monterey St., Ste. D430 | San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

Tel: (805) 781-1045 | Fax: (805) 781-5023

From: Susan Lamont <slamont@riseslo.org>

Sent: Monday, August 17, 2020 04:44 PM

To: AD-Board-Clerk <ad\_board\_clerk@co.slo.ca.us>

Subject: [EXT] left a voice mail also

ATTENTION: This email originated from outside the County's network. Use caution when opening attachments or links.

This is our comment for the August 18,2020 meeting for Item #3 - Thank you!

County of San Luis Obispo Board of Supervisors

My name is Susan Lamont and I am the Associate Director of RISE San Luis Obispo County.

RISE provides vital services to those affected by sexual assault and intimate partner violence, as well as prevention and awareness programs throughout the county.

RISE annually answers over 1,000 crisis calls, houses an average of 130 women, men and children fleeing violence, and provides counseling services to over 250 individuals so they can begin their healing journey.

We currently have around 65 people on our waiting list for counseling, and following the statewide COVID-19 Shelter in Place we have extended our maximum stay for survivors from 60 days to 75 days. We are only able to serve up to 10 families in our shelters, and last year alone we received over 200 unmet requests for shelter.

Thanks to local and national awareness campaigns, grassroots efforts, and wider news coverage of these issues, people are feeling safe to share their truths and to begin their healing journeys. The trauma of sexual assault and intimate partner violence is finally being recognized as the public health issue that it is, and survivors are sharing their stories and seeking help more than ever before. Sadly, we do not have the resources to serve everyone in need. But this County funding is vital to sustaining these essential services.

Thank you for your continued support and for bolstering our crucial work year after year. We couldn't do it without you.

--

Susan Lamont |Associate Director

Pronouns | she, her, hers | [why do pronouns matter?](#)



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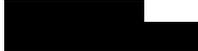
RISE

Sexual Assault/Abuse and Intimate Partner Violence Programs

[RISEslo.org](http://RISEslo.org)



Locations:



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