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6/14/2021

To the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors:

We, the members of the Humboldt Creative Alliance and the undersigned, are writing to our Board of Supervisors in support of county funding for the arts and cultural sector.

Over the last year and a half, we have seen the devastating effects of Covid-19 on our local economy. The Arts and Culture sector has been hit particularly hard with 99% galleries closed, venues shuttered, events cancelled, and statewide over 30% of workers in creative industries have lost their jobs. Many in this sector have not yet re-opened, or are operating at a vastly reduced capacity.

The holes left in our community by missing arts and cultural events have been felt everywhere, from Arts Alive to the County Fair and all of our annual festivals. Arts and culture are an integral part of the fabric of our communities and make Humboldt a vibrant, exciting place to live and visit. They get us out and about, frequenting the restaurants, bars, and shops that have also struggled so much during Covid. They bring us together and help us heal.

Given all of the many benefits a strong Arts and Culture sector provides, from local quality-of-life to economic growth, many municipalities and counties across the USA - from Salt Lake County to San Francisco - have adopted highly successful funding programs for their local arts and events scene. Our Humboldt Creative Alliance working groups have already had a number of positive and supportive meetings with members of County staff, and we now wish to formally request the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors direct staff to seek out funding options for Humboldt's Arts and Culture Industry Cluster. We have the utmost confidence in County staff, and feel that together we can develop funding options that will have a profoundly positive effect for Humboldt and all of our communities - particularly as we re-emerge from the long isolation of Covid, and once again start to gather together.

Thank you for your time and your consideration.

Sincerely,

Humboldt Creative Alliance

Signed By:

Libby Maynard  
Ink People Center for the Arts  
Managing Artistic Director

Jacqueline Dandeneau  
Playhouse Arts  
Executive Artistic Director

Kristi Patterson  
Trajectory  
Director

Calder Johnson  
North Coast Repertory Theatre  
Managing Artistic Director

Leira V. Satlof  
Ferndale Repertory Theatre  
Executive Artistic Director

Marilyn McCormick  
Ferndale Repertory Theatre  
Board Member

Erica Field  
Ferndale Repertory Theatre  
Board Member

Peggy Metzger  
Redwood Curtain Theatre  
Executive Director

Carol Ryder  
Humboldt Light Opera Company  
Artistic Producing Director

Brad Curtis  
Singer/Actor

Clint Rebik  
Redwood Curtain Theatre  
Artistic Director

Bernadette Cheyne  
Redwood Curtain Theatre  
Board Member

Elizabeth Norton  
Humboldt Light Opera Company  
Former Board Member/Performer

Julie Fulkerson  
Eureka Chamber Music Series  
Board Member

Zuzka Sbata  
Dell'Arte International  
Co-Artistic Director, The Bartow  
Project

Ruthi Engelke  
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Art & Culture Coordinator