



JEFF GAFFNEY  
DIRECTOR

# County of Santa Cruz

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## PARKS, OPEN SPACE & CULTURAL SERVICES

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## ARTS COMMISSION 2023-2024 BIENNIAL REPORT

### **ROLE OF THE COMMISSION**

For the benefit of the citizens of the County of Santa Cruz, the Arts Commission is responsible for advising and making recommendations to the Board of Supervisors and the Parks Department staff on all matters relating to the encouragement and coordination of artistic and cultural affairs within the County. In addition, the Commission:

1. Identifies and addresses the unmet needs of cultural and artistic life in Santa Cruz County.
2. Serves as advocates for the arts, soliciting multiple sources to support artistic and cultural programs in Santa Cruz County.
3. Communicates and cooperates with the County of Santa Cruz, Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services and related Commissions, community and private resources and arts-related groups performing as contractors, in order to ensure coordination of arts and cultural activities.
4. Assembles and makes available to the public up-to-date information relating to Santa Cruz County's artistic and cultural resources.
5. Is responsible for Arts Council oversight for the Board of Supervisors and conducts an annual review in June.
6. Helps facilitate public and private partnerships for the Arts in Santa Cruz County.

### **MEETINGS AND STRUCTURE**

The Arts Commission meets no more than six times each fiscal year, with meeting dates to be determined by the Commission based on program needs. Meetings are generally held at 4:30 p.m. in the Community Room at the Simpkins Family Swim Center/Live Oak Library Annex.

The Arts Commission is made up of ten members, two nominated by each Supervisor, which operates using the Sturgis Rules of Order and a structure that includes a Chairperson and a Vice-Chairperson. Staff support is provided by the Department of Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services.

### **ATTENDANCE**

Exhibit 1 (two pages) displays the attendance of the Commissioners for the past 24 months.

# 2023-24 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

## **Arts Awards and Recognition:**

- Selected the 2024 and 2025 Artists of the Year (Janet Johns). Held *Profile Performance* events for the 2023 Artist of the Year, Stephen Kessler and the 2024 Artist of the Year (Tammi Brown) at Kuumbwa Jazz.
- Selected awardees of the “Spotlight Award” for 2023 and 2024, an award established in 2023 to honor local emerging artists, which includes an exhibition of their work on the 5<sup>th</sup> floor of the County Government Center.
- Re-launched the Santa Cruz County Poet Laureate program, in cooperation with Santa Cruz Public Libraries, Arts Council Santa Cruz County, and Poetry Santa Cruz.

## **Public Arts Programs:**

- Developed the 2024 and 2025 Public Art Plans
- Public Art projects were installed at the Aptos Library and Live Oak Library Annex, Heart of Soquel Parkway, and the South County Government Center.
- Voted to recommend to the Board of Supervisors the Art Panel’s selection of artists for the Children’s Crisis Support Center, the Sobering Center, the Green Valley Multi-use Pathway, and Floral Park.
- Began the public art process for Floral Park and Hidden Beach.
- Completed phase 6 of Outside the Box.
- Appointed Commission representatives to serve on upcoming public art panels.

## **County Art Collection and Exhibitions:**

- Continued art exhibitions at the County Government Center and Simpkins Family Swim Center; appointed an Arts Commissioner to serve on the selection panel for the 2023 and 2024 exhibitions screening.

## **Commission Business:**

- Held annual planning meeting.
- Reviewed Arts Council activities.
- Reviewed Museum of Art and History activities.
- Formed subcommittee to review and make recommendations to the Commission for updates to the Public Art & Design Guidelines.
- Reviewed and revised the Public Art & Design guidelines; recommend the Board of Supervisors accept the proposed revisions.
- Reviewed and updated the Arts Commission by-laws; recommend the Board of Supervisors accept the proposed by-laws updates.

# 2025-2026 GOALS

## **Arts Awards and Recognition:**

- Continue Art Exhibits in the County Government Center; appoint Arts Commissioner to serve on the selection panel for 2025 and 2026 exhibitions.
- Hold Artist of the Year 2025 and 2026 “Profile Performance” and select the Artist of the Year 2026 and 2027.
- Select awardees of the “Spotlight Award” for 2025 and 2026.
- Establish new Arts Legacy Award, develop criteria, and select recipients.

- Appoint Arts Commissioner to serve on the Santa Cruz County Poet Laureate panel for 2027-28 position.

### **Public Art Programs:**

- Develop the 2026 and 2027 Public Art Plans.
- Continue and complete the public art process for Floral Park, Hidden Beach, Sobering Center, Children's Crisis Center, Ben Lomond Transfer Station, and Green Valley MUP.
- Begin the public art process for Pace Trails, Simpkins Swim Center Slide, and Juvenile Hall.
- Implement future phases of the *Outside the Box* program.
- Continue JIT program.

### **County Art Collection & Exhibitions:**

- Rotate pieces in the County Art Collection.
- Secure donations of art from previous Artists of the Year.
- Develop plan to reactivate Visual Chronicle.
- Develop funding plan for professional assessment of collection, including public, restoration/repair of damaged work, and appropriate storage for the collection.
- Develop collection stewardship plan.
- Continued art exhibitions at the County Government Center and Simpkins Family Swim Center/Library Annex; appoint an Arts Commissioner to serve on the selection panel for the 2025 and 2026 exhibitions screenings.

### **Information and Communication:**

- Reinstate all-commissions annual meeting (e.g. County Arts Commission, City Arts Commissions)

### **Commission Business:**

- Review Arts Council Santa Cruz County activities.
- Review the Museum of Art and History activities.
- Review and incorporate Board-recommended revisions to the updated Public Art & Design Guidelines.

### **Future Planning:**

- Conduct annual Arts Commission planning meeting
- Continue work towards Equity and Inclusion - The Arts Commission commits to making our programs more equitable and inclusive, especially as they relate to the list in "Role of the Commission" at the top of this document.

### **Recommendations:**

- Form subcommittee to address a new public art program: Public Art in Private Development, which will provide public artwork for the entire county community

**ARTS COMMISSION - Attendance 2023**

**P** = Present    **E** = Excused Absence    **U** = Unexcused Absence    **V** = Vacant    **R** = Resigned    **C**=Canceled/No Quorum    **P\***=Late Arrival to Meeting    **T**= Term ended

<b>Meets selected Mondays at 4:30PM, 979 17<sup>th</sup> Ave.</b>	<b>Jan. 23</b>	<b>Feb.</b>	<b>Mar. 6</b>	<b>Apr.</b>	<b>May 1</b>	<b>June</b>	<b>July 10</b>	<b>July 17</b>	<b>July 21</b>	<b>Aug.</b>	<b>Sept. 11</b>	<b>Sept. 25</b>	<b>Oct.</b>	<b>Nov. 6</b>	<b>Dec. 4</b>
<b>DISTRICT 1 – SUPERVISOR KOENIG</b>															
Karen Kroslowitz							C	C	P		C	P		C	P
Paula Woods	P		P		P		C	C	R		VACANT				
Arthur Solway	P		P		R										
<b>DISTRICT 2 – SUPERVISOR FRIEND</b>															
Cynthia Kilian	P		P		P		R	VACANT							
Charlie Singer												P		C	P
Adele Gardner	U		P		E		C	C	E		C	E		R	
<b>DISTRICT 3 – SUPERVISOR CUMMINGS</b>															
Taj Leahy					P		C	P	P		C	P		C	P
Valeria Miranda						VACANT								C	P
Joanna Phillips	P*		P		T										
Aura Oslapas	P		E		T										
<b>DISTRICT 4 – SUPERVISOR HERNANDEZ</b>															
Paul De Worken	U		P		T										
Herminia Borges							C	C	P		C	U		C	U
Judy Stabile	P		P		P		C	C	P		C	P		C	E
<b>DISTRICT 5 – SUPERVISOR McPHERSON</b>															
Lynda Phillips	P		P		P		C	C	P		C	P		C	P
Margaret Niven	P		E		P		C	C	P		C	P		C	P

**ARTS COMMISSION - Attendance 2024**

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DISTRICT 1 – SUPERVISOR KOENIG												
Karen Kroslowitz	P		P		P		P		P			P
Sonia Leclerc	P		P		U		P		E			P
DISTRICT 2 – SUPERVISOR FRIEND												
Brenda Rogers			P		P		P		P			E
Charlie Singer	P		P		P		P		P			P*
DISTRICT 3 – SUPERVISOR CUMMINGS												
Taj Leahy	P		E		R	VACANT						
Valeria Miranda	P		P		E		P		P			P
DISTRICT 4 – SUPERVISOR HERNANDEZ												
Paul DeWorken	VACANT				P		P		E			R
Judy Stabile	P		P		P		E		P			P
DISTRICT 5 – SUPERVISOR McPHERSON												
Lynda Phillips	P		E		P		U		P			P
Margaret Niven	P		P		E		P		P			P