

RESOLUTION NO. _____

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, COUNTY OF SAN MATEO, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE, OR
DESIGNEE(S), TO TAKE ALL STEPS NECESSARY TO ESTABLISH AN OFFICE OF
ARTS AND CULTURE WITHIN THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE'S OFFICE (CEO)**

RESOLVED, by the Board of Supervisors of the County of San Mateo, State of California, that:

WHEREAS, on June 1, 2021, the County Executive Officer (CEO) initiated an Office of Arts and Culture for the purpose of strengthening the organizational structure of the San Mateo County Arts Commission (SMCAC), whose mission is to champion the arts as essential for a healthy and vibrant community by shaping innovative cultural policies, creating inclusive and diverse programming, investing in the creative economy, and ensuring access to arts and culture for all residents of San Mateo County; and

WHEREAS, the SMCAC is currently undergoing a dynamic transformation, including the recent hiring of the new Executive Director and the adoption and successful roll-out of several strategies identified in the SMCAC Strategic Cultural Plan, while accentuating the increasing recognition of the value and multi-faceted contributions of arts and culture in San Mateo County, with a growing focus on the arts as a means to support this Board's priorities in the areas of community wellness and vitality, equity, education, and as an economic driver; and

WHEREAS, research conducted by the Americans for the Arts has documented the positive economic, health, and educational benefits of a dedication to the arts, while

studies, including one published by the American Journal of Public Health, have shown the connection between engagement with creative arts and positive health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, establishing the Office of Arts and Culture within the CEO, with appropriate staffing and clear organizational mandates, would position it to work as an essential point of contact within a creative economy comprised of other County departments, cities, the Office of Education and school districts, non-profits, and private enterprises in San Mateo County, allowing for an expansion of how arts and culture can deliver innovative, vital programming and services to communities throughout San Mateo County, creation of pathways to equitable careers in the arts, and the enhancement and improvement of educational experiences and opportunities for our youth and young adults.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY DETERMINED AND ORDERED THAT the County Executive, or designee(s), is authorized and directed to take all steps necessary to formally establish the Office of Arts and Culture within the CEO, retaining the SMCAC as an advisory body to the Board of Supervisors housed within the Office of Arts and Culture. The County Executive, or designee, shall work with the Office of Arts and Culture to develop a sustainable funding and staffing plan, which includes appropriate resources to support the Office of Arts and Culture and its workplan, and report back to the Board during the FY2023-24 budget development cycle on a recommended, sustainable budget for the Office of Arts and Culture.

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