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DANIEL TARICA
INTERIM GENERAL MANAGER

April 21, 2022

Honorable Budget and Finance Committee Members
c/o: City Clerk
Los Angeles City Hall, Room 395
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Honorable Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the Mayor's FY22-23 Proposed Budget for the Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA). As our city and communities across the country transition into reconstitution and reopening, DCA is pleased that the Mayor's FY22-23 Proposed Budget continues to utilize culture and creativity to support equity, economic activity, workforce development, and belonging – which are all part of the Department's core service delivery.

This budget continues the Department's efforts to stabilize the City's arts and cultural delivery system by restoring baseline staffing and funding for critical positions. These position authorities and funding allow the Department to further reach the City's diverse communities through our Neighborhood Arts and Cultural Centers, theaters, historic sites, grantees, public art programs, and our marketing and promotional programs.

The Department is also pleased to receive position authority and funding to provide full-time support for the effective management of the City Art Collection. This budget allocation provides the resources for the Department to reinforce its stewardship of approximately 2,500 city-owned works of arts, including paintings, photographs, sculptures, prints, historical artifacts, rare furniture, textiles, and many other forms of mixed media art.

While the Proposed Budget supports the return of the Lankershim Arts Center as a department-managed community center, it proposes to eliminate an administrative clerk position, one of the key positions responsible for the operations of the facility. **To ensure that this center is provided with baseline staffing support, DCA requests the restoration of this administrative clerk position authority without funding so that the Department has the necessary staffing resources to welcome the community back to the Center with new and innovative programming.**

This modest request does not require additional funds and simultaneously addresses the essential role that staff plays in implementing the programming of the Department, ensuring that the City meets the needs of all the communities we strive to serve. This position is critical to restore so that the Department's operational model can function effectively.

The FY22-23 Proposed Budget supports the Department's efforts to prepare for, and accelerate, economic recovery and retain creative sector jobs. Achieving these goals will: build our arts and cultural ecology; stimulate our regional economy; help Los Angeles continue to be a place where people feel like they belong; and prepare for the 2028 Olympic Summer and Paralympic Games.

Together with our community partners, the City's strategic investments will ensure that DCA continues to provide and market accessible, well-managed, and well-stewarded facilities, arts and cultural programming, and educational initiatives for as many as possible, reinforcing our citywide arts equity goals. We sincerely appreciate the City's ongoing efforts to continue providing services to the City's highest need communities.

Sincerely,

Daniel M. Tarica

DANIEL TARICA
Interim General Manager
City of Los Angeles Department of Cultural Affairs

cc: Mary Hodge, Deputy Mayor, Mayor's Office of City Services
Jeanne Holm, Deputy Mayor, Mayor's Office of Budget and Innovation
Raoul Mendoza, Budget Director, Office of the Mayor
Matthew Szabo, City Administrative Officer
Sharon Tso, Chief Legislative Analyst
Rebecca Rasmussen, Executive Officer, Mayor's Office of City Services
Maria Gutierrez, Chief Administrative Analyst, Office of the CAO
Andy Chen, Senior Administrative Analyst, Office of the CAO
Jennifer Perkins, Director of Neighborhood Services, Mayor's Office of City Services
Riki Esquer, Deputy Director, Mayor's Office of City Services
Karo Torossian, Chief of Staff, Council District 2