



City Council Meeting
Public Comments
August 17, 2022

Submitted on Wednesday, August 17, 2022 - 11:33am

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email tristan@mandalacreative.net

Council Meeting Date 08-17-2022

Item # 8

Subject

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Tristan Pittard

Are you an Escondido Resident? No

Comments

As an active member in the arts in Escondido, I would like to express my thoughts on how vital it is that we continue to encourage and fund the arts.

The California Center for the Arts is a cornerstone of this endeavor and I look forward to seeing what they bring to Escondido in the coming years.

Submitted on Wednesday, August 17, 2022 - 12:22pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email sbates@csusm.edu

Council Meeting Date August 17

Item # 1

Subject Take down art from exhibit

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Steven Sates

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

A specific piece of art might be offensive to some individuals and groups. This is good to stimulate peaceful expression of viewpoints but is never a reason to destroy, burn, or take down the piece. I don't agree with that type of censorship.

Submitted on Wednesday, August 17, 2022 - 11:49am

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email aberleballarenia@aol.com

Council Meeting Date 8/17/22

Item # Art work

Subject Keep the artwork with the police officers. Art needs to be a free expression.

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Sarah Aberle

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments Free expression of artwork with a democracy

Submitted on Tuesday, August 16, 2022 - 7:18pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email budb@cox.net

Council Meeting Date 08/17/2022

Item # 8

Subject DISCUSSION OF THE OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY AND THE CALIFORNIA CENTER FOR ARTS, ESCONDIDO, FOUNDATION

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Rick Bova

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

My understanding is that this is being proposed because some members on the City Council did like an art piece having to do with the police being portrayed in a non favorable light. I think the piece is legitimate art even though I did not like the piece nor agree with what was being depicted in it. Art by definition should elicit a emotional or intellectual response from the viewer. It may also reflect an emotional or intellectual view of the artist or a section of the population. I can like a movie even if the bad guy wins if it well made and provides insight into the bad guy. The main auditorium may have a music or stage production in a style I don't like. I don't think it should not be supported and not put on just because I don't like it because I know there are others in the Escondido community that do. Art does not have to be liked by everyone. The art center should not be punished just because it showed an art piece that did not have the support of the complete community. The politician on the city council should not dictate what is and is not good art. If you make censorship in this back handed way legitimate because of a piece of art that you don't like today, someone else may censor a piece of art that you do like tomorrow. This change in funding is a way of trying to get the Performing Art Center to self censor art and is wrong. I oppose any change to the current funding.

Submitted on Wednesday, August 17, 2022 - 12:05pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email laurahunter744@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date August 17, 2022

Item # 8

Subject Support full funding of the CCAE

Position No Position

First and Last Name Laura Hunter

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Dear Mayor and City Council,

I see that the Center for the Arts funding appears to be on the agenda and, potentially, in jeopardy. I would like to urge the Council to leave the funding agreement in place and to allow the CCAE Board to manage the center, including the art exhibits, as they see fit per the standards of practice.

The arts are a precious thing. Art can inspire, relieve pain, heal. It can save people's lives. I can say that because music saved my life in many ways.

They can also offend. Just like different people have different life experiences, artists have different messages to share. And, if we are open, we can learn something about a perspective that may not be our own. Art can be difficult, insulting, uncomfortable. challenging—that is its right.

It is up to us, the public, to encourage and, yes fund, our artists and encourage their unfettered exploration of life. It benefits all of us, even when we don't like the result.

Have I seen things at the Art Center I didn't like. Yes. Have I heard music there I didn't care for? Yes. Do I defend the right for artist to share their interpretation of life as they see and live it? Absolutely, yes.

Freedom of expression, including artistic expression, is fundamental to a free society. To censor it leads in a direction of oppression of views which is the opposite direction the Council should be leading in.

Even if you don't like some (one?) of the art pieces, please remember the Art Center is the most valuable cultural and economic jewel in Escondido. It is what separates us from all the other cities in the County and region. Please protect and preserve it.

Laura Hunter

B.MusEd, MFA, Music Performance

Escondido

Email jsbw@cox.net

Council Meeting Date August 17, 2022

Item # 8

Subject Changing Funding for CCAE

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name John Williams

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Councilmembers--I'm a constituent in District 2, and I'd like to ask you to advocate on behalf of the California Center for the Arts. Freedom of Speech is something we cherish in this country...it's a keystone of our democracy, and nowhere is it more important that our public officials protect it than in artistic expression.

I understand the objections of some Escondidans to the piece, "A.P.A.B" in the Street Legacy exhibit. While several were offended, that controversy gave rise to dialogue about how police are viewed differently in the Black and Latino communities than they are in White communities. This is a conversation that we cannot have too often. I know how important it is to my fellow Escondidans of color. I also understand how Councilmember Morasco would support censorship and cutting funding to the CCAE--no Escondidan would be surprised by his response.

I've spoken with Mayor Mac directly about this issue (I was shocked at his assent with Councilmember Morasco at the last meeting). He made his point by asking me, "what if it were Nazi art?" I replied that if it was, I'd fully support it's exhibition. The issues of white supremacy and police violence MUST be discussed. We must never stop discussing them...and I much prefer an art exhibit to stimulate that discussion rather than the grim alternative. The Mayor has since expressed his support of free speech--but also maintained he did not support this particular work.

I'm certain that you, member of this Council support free speech and understand how a very large section of Escondido does not share the same sense of security and trust of police enjoyed by the more fair-skinned population. I hope that knowledge influences you. I would encourage you to ask your friends of color how they perceive this matter. But aside from that, the California Center for the Arts is a precious gem of culture, not only for Escondido but for the entire region, and we should do everything we can to see it thrive, and bring significant, current, new ideas to our community...and continued dialogue regarding the issues our community faces.

Please vote in favor of maintaining Escondido funding for the California Center of the Arts at--or above--it's current level of support.

Thank you for your service.

Submitted on Wednesday, August 17, 2022 - 10:04am

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email heidibeth1@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 8/17/22

Item # 8

Subject Removal of art from CCA museum display

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Heidi Paul

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

I am completely opposed to the censorship of the piece of art depicting the police as pigs. The reason is that it is authentic art and it expresses the feelings of a certain populous of San Diego. It is vital to understand that in order to address discrimination and harm that has been inflicted on people in our midst.

Submitted on Wednesday, August 17, 2022 - 10:36am

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email heatherm@designmoe.com

Council Meeting Date 8/17/2022

Item # 8

Subject California Center for the Arts

Position No Position

First and Last Name Heather Moe

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Please continue to fund the CCAE at the current levels. The community's passionate reaction to OG Slick's artwork demonstrates just how important art is to all of us. Regardless of your opinion of the piece, it's interesting to see how it has sparked an outpouring of support for respecting the police. The further question—is what role (if any) should the city play in promoting or safeguarding that respect. I would argue that the current public debate has already accomplished that goal, and thus no further action is required.

Diana Aguirre
dra805@gmail.com

I am a resident of Carlsbad and since moving to North County San Diego I have attended several events at the beautiful CA center for the Arts. This is the main reason I venture to Escondido is for the art and performances. They support events that uplift our Latino community with artists from around the world and local artists. A city without the appropriate arts is one that will struggle to strive and build community. The center also provides access to arts for all of North County. The center is the only art center of it's kind to serve North County and I urge you to continue funding them at sustain at minimum 20% of their budget. The art center is critical for Escondido's community and of their neighboring cities. The art center is vital for Escondido's downtown to thrive as it attracts residents from all over. Thank you!

Submitted on Wednesday, August 17, 2022 - 1:16pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email amvoradi@yahoo.com

Council Meeting Date August 17, 2022

Item # 8

Subject California Center for the Arts

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Ana Marie Velasco

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Dear Mayor and Council Members :

I've been a resident of Escondido for 22 yrs. When we moved south from the Bay Area, we fell in love with the orange and avocado orchards in this city. But it was the Center for the Arts what made us stay in Escondido. Since 2000 , I've been a member of the CCA on and off, and I've have seen the Center put together innumerable exhibits of high quality: " Art in both sides of the Border, The Nicki de Saint Falle exhibit and now Street Legacy to name a few. This last exhibition allowed a segment of the population to see their art showcased in a Museum, and I felt proud of my city for its openness. Inauguration night was such a festive event, and the response to the whole exhibit was extremely positive.

It only took a few guests to complain about 1 particular art piece , amongst 100 others , to create a roar. Those voices do not represent the majority of our residents.

Art throughout history has represented very different point of views on all types of issues ie... Goya, Picasso, Warhol

. Often Art is NOT understood by a majority, and that's ok. This particular piece expresses the feelings shared by many who have had painful interaction with the police. It's not focusing on our City but on an institution that needs to provide the same protection to people of all colors and religions. The artist has the right to express that through his art, and we have the right to like it or not. We do not have the right to CENSOR It. Freedom of Speech is the basis of a Democracy and we must defend it. Let's take this opportunity to have an open dialogue amongst residents and let's learn from each other. We need to be able to discuss topics even if they make us uncomfortable.

Let the City Council run the city and let the Center run itself , but with our financial support. The California Center for the Arts is a

Unique asset to our city and it's what makes Escondido different from other cities and special!

Thank you for listening.

Submitted on Wednesday, August 17, 2022 - 1:54pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email mark@markskovorodko.com

Council Meeting Date 8/17/2022

Item # 8

Subject California Center for the Arts

Position No Position

First and Last Name Mark Skovorodko

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

Good evening City Council Members,

I remember the first time I went to a concert at the California Center for the Arts – as a relatively new resident to Escondido, I was amazed and proud that we had such a beautiful concert venue right in the heart of our downtown. The Center for the Arts not only raises the profile of the City of Escondido as a community that values the arts and culture, but even more so generates economic activity for our downtown businesses through the visitors it consistently brings to Escondido. Regardless of your position on the current exhibit at the Center, I urge you to recognize the stimulus the Center for the Arts is in our downtown. I've spoken with longtime residents of Escondido who remember downtown Escondido in the 60s as a bustling retail area, and who subsequently witnessed the decline of Grand Avenue as the Escondido Village Mall and then later the Westfield Mall came into town and shuttered downtown business after business. Downtown Escondido has suffered enough blows through the last 50 years and through the pandemic – please don't make any decisions tonight that will further hamper economic development in Downtown Escondido. I ask that we as city continue to help fund the California Center for the Arts; it's an investment we can't and shouldn't forego.

Thank you.

Submitted on Wednesday, August 17, 2022 - 2:15pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email lindajwilkinson@gmail.com

Council Meeting Date 8/17/22

Item # 8

Subject Funds for CCAEF

Position In Favor

First and Last Name Linda Wilkinson

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments

The City Council should continue to support the California Center for the Arts to the same level as budgeted if not a higher level. Escondido spent money to have an arts center, it would be disgraceful to not continue to support the arts in Escondido. The recent controversy with the Street Legacy installation should be celebrated not retaliated against! Art is quite often controversial, it makes people think. Not everyone has the same opinion of art, and that is a good thing. Escondido should not move for more censorship.

Submitted on Wednesday, August 17, 2022 - 2:31pm

Submitted by user: Visitor

Submitted values are:

Board or Commission for Public Comment City Council

Email joannetenney@hotmail.com

Council Meeting Date 08/17/2022

Item # 8

Subject Center for the Arts

Position In Opposition

First and Last Name Joanne Tenney

Are you an Escondido Resident? Yes

Comments I am in opposition to any reduction in funding for the Center for the Arts.