

Rec'd 10/6 5:16 PM

October 6, 2020

City Council of Benicia

Benicia, CA

Dear Benicia City Council Members,

It is my pleasure to write a letter of support for the proposal to provide \$75,000 for public art by the City Council of Benicia.

As the Vice Chair of the Arts and Culture Commission I can personally attest to wise investment this proposal offers to the community we serve. Leo Tolstoy once wrote "All art has this characteristic – it unites people." Benicia public art unites our community. Especially during times of COVID-19 and amid the isolation of sheltering in place, our public art provides a respite of the soul to connect to our humanity around us. By investing in public art, we are investing in the unity of our community.

The proposed funding will add to the growing efforts of our local artists and craftspeople to support the quality of life for people who call Benicia home. We see the joy, happiness, pleasure, and love that public art adds to our historical landscapes. Art adds value in a way that changes the person once it is experienced. Public art enlivens the senses because it is viewed in a new way each time you happen across it. This generous investment in our public art program will lift the spirits and the hearts of our community when it needs it the most!

In conclusion, I fully support to proposal to provide \$75,000 for public art by the City Council of Benicia. This investment will help to bring to fruition more programs that enrich the community for economic development, quality of life, community well-being, and for tourists and visitors from far and wide. This investment underscores the value of arts and creative works and provides a welcoming landscape to our historical town. It is a show of great confidence in the public art program of the city and it is greatly appreciated.

Best Regards,

Lily Ploski

Vice Chair, Arts and Culture Commission