

Communication from Public

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Comments for Public Posting: I urge you to vote in favor of sustaining current Department of Cultural Affairs funding for 2020-2021 year. Mayor Garcetti frequently recites the world class status of Los Angeles for the arts. The DCA needs to be funded especially because of its relationship to the various communities who are served and educated by the city's local arts organizations. For example, I frequently visit places such as the LA Municipal Gallery at Barnsdall and the Watts Art Center. When I am there I always see a great mixture of people, but especially people from these neighborhoods and other minorities. These demographics generally do not exist at "high art" galleries. I feel that these cultural sites are especially important for them, as they may not have much opportunity to encounter or explore the arts due to pervasive corporate culture and media or previous cuts in school funding. Many of LA's cultural institutions are "grass roots" organizations, meaning that they provide opportunities to experience dynamic and rewarding work that addresses real world concerns, meet creative individuals in person and through public events, and provide non-commercial models of artistic individuals and art's complex cultures. I would argue that LA's vibrant colleges and art schools, as well as the health of the art market system, are dependent upon the sustaining of the arts on the civic level. The DCA is the "foundation" upon which the people's arts is built. Thank you!