

**From:** [Jay Bell](#)  
**To:** [FGG, Public Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Felicia Shaw](#)  
**Subject:** [External] Agenda Item #17- Fix the Tijuana River Crisis, but do not gut the Arts and Culture Commission  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 9, 2025 8:39:25 AM

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County Supervisors-

While I am in full support of the clean up of Tijuana River Sewage crisis, the proposed funding method for Federal Advocacy will gut the effectiveness and set back the Arts and Culture in SD County, silencing the voices of artists, cultural practitioners and community organizers that fought for decades to make art and culture a priority in San Diego County.

A reallocation of the funding from the vacant staff position would eliminate the possibility of bringing in a top level arts and culture professional to lead our Commission and continue the hard fought progress that we have achieved. Without a staff person, our Commission will be unable to meet our commitments that have been made to our nonprofit partners and community as a whole.

Systemic defunding of arts and culture by the County Supervisors was the norm in past administrations, please do not go back to those dark times. The County has multiple lobbying and advocacy contracts currently in place, I would encourage the County to utilize these instead of decimating the arts.

In this time of suppression, aggression and violence against freedom of expression, we need to double down our support of the arts, not play into the hand of authoritarians who wish to pit like minded people against each other in a battle for shrinking resources.

Jay Bell  
SD County Arts and Culture Commissioner

**From:** [Emmy Garnica](#)  
**To:** [FGG, Public Comment](#)  
**Cc:** [Patricia Frischer](#)  
**Subject:** [External] Please Keep County Arts Commissioner  
**Date:** Tuesday, September 9, 2025 10:54:47 AM

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Dear Chair Terra and Joel, Jim, Monica and Paloma,

I am writing to urge you to retain the position of County Arts Commissioner. I am a strong supporter of both the arts and environmental issues

The crisis we are facing at the border has been a problem for as long as I can remember and should have been addressed years ago. I am glad you are seeking a solution now, and we will all benefit.

But eliminating the Arts Commissioner position would be a “drop in the bucket” towards solving the environmental problem.

Please keep the County Arts Commissioner position!

Emmy Garnica  
Cardiff by the Sea



Sent from my iPad