#17

[redacted]

Page 1

Q1

Full Name:

Syed Zia Hussain

Q2

Indicate the name of the Commission you are interested in serving on:

Arts Commission (Complete Questions 9-17 on the NextPage)

,

Parks and Community Services Commission,

Planning Commission

Q3

Indicate why you wish to serve on this Commission. Provide any experience or qualifications you may possess that you think would be beneficial to this Commission. A resume (optional) may be attached.

I have AS degree in Architecture and later pursue Urban Planning because my interest has always been to view the city development process with regards to its impact on its users (residential and commercial).

Q4

As a Commission member, what ideas or projects are of interest to you?

My ideal Costa Mesa is the city of Orange County that attracts people from other cities to visit it for commercial and pleasure reasons. I will bring in the aspect to make Costa Mesa more and more people friendly which means safer, more economical, and environmentally friendly.
At this moment I am serving as member of Mobile House Park Advisory Committee at City of Costa Mesa.
https://www.costamesaca.gov/government/commissions-and-committees/mobile-home-park-advisory-committee/committee-members-and-staff

Q5

Optional Resume:

URP%20RESUME.pdf (273.6KB)

Q6

Contact Information:Note: This contact information will not be posted on the City's website or distributed to the public. However, this information is still subject to release pursuant to the California Public Records Act. Once appointed, Commission members must complete an Oath of Allegiance, administered by the City Clerk, required by Article XX, Section 3, of the Constitution of the State of California.

Name:	**Syed Zia Hussain**
Address:	[redacted]
Address 2:	
City/Town:	
ZIP/Postal Code:	
Email Address:	
Phone (cell):	

Q7

Signature Required:

By checking this box and typing my name below, I am electronically signing my application.

Q8

Full Name:

Syed Zia Hussain

Page 2: QUESTIONS FOR ARTS COMMISSION APPLICANTS ONLY

Q9

Current or Most Recent Employer:

Serra Sol Senior Living

Q10

Current or Most Recent Job Title:

Activity Assistant

Q11

Key Accomplishments:

In-Process to start a Non-Profit Organization that emphasizes on encouraging quality education and knowledge of Urban planning. Already organized two seminars (hybrid) with Sustainable and Transport management dept Malmo University, Sweden and California. produced two urban planning related documentaries. And starting a community education program that highlights information on Architecture and urban designs

Q12

Please share your background and experience or knowledge of the arts (visual and performing), arts education, arts administration and community outreach/engagement:

Member of UNESCO-CID 2024, qualified IDTA, UK. (International Dance Teachers Association) Gold Level, organized cultural events in Leeuwarden Town Netherlands covered by local TV channels and newspapers grants paid by the Town hall (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u2-CJBE12oM), President of Music society at InterCollege Nicosia, Cyprus. Band member of Lasers released three albums and managed the group. I was the songwriter, singer and produced music. Contributed in art directors for our song videos. Appeared in Tv shows. (https://www.youtube.com/@lasersmusicpk)

Q13

Why are you applying to be an Arts Commissioner for the City of Costa Mesa?

I believe with my background experience in performing arts and also my ethnicity I will bring diversity in our Arts Commissioner. My background is from Pakistan and as you can see I have international qualification and experience also.

Q14

Please share your vision for the arts in Costa Mesa:

I believe the connection between urban planning/design and Art goes I long way back. Copenhagen (city in Denmark) is an example of how Art and urban design plans a role in neighborhoods security, economy, and social health. I would like to see my Costa Mesa promote similar role.

Q15

Please share your experience in producing and/or participating in Arts and multicultural programing:

I have produced several art projects in Pakistan (family festival in my home town, released three music albums, appearances on TV channels and press coverage, Netherlands (multi-cultural promotional events with Expect-Leewuarden, and freelance projects with town hall grants, on local channels and press, and Cyprus (President of Music society)

Q16

Please share any other relevant work experience, volunteer work, community activities or memberships:

all mentioned above

Q17

How did you hear about this opportunity?

I am a regular follower of City of Costa Mesa.

Syed Zia Hussain

Member of Mobile Housing Committee, City of Costa Mesa, CA.
[redacted]

"StrengthFinder Personality Test" Type ESFJ: Helpful, Harmony, attention to clients' needs, work well with others to achieve goals, take commitments seriously, structured, and organized, best in organizing people to get a job done!

Education

Cal Poly Pomona, California, United States. **updated**
Bachelor of Science in Urban and Regional Planning GPA 3.16

Orange Coast College. California, United States. **Dec 2019**
Associate degree in Architecture
Associate Degree in Event Management **GPA** 3.36

Orange Coast College. California, United States. **Dec 2016**
Associate Degree (Honors) in Event Management GPA 3.36

Work Experience:

Freelance Projects (YouTube: Smart City Developers - YouTube) **2023 - updated**
Produced a documentary on "**Students Design Net-Zero House - Sustainability Decathlon"** 2024**.**
"Impact of McBride Park Long Beach, CA."
SCD-Seminar I & SCD-Seminar 2rd. (hybrid event with research exchange between California and Sweden)

Community Service Leader II: City of Costa Mesa (Recreational Dept) Part-Time. **Jan '24 – Mar '24**
Support R.O.C.K after-school program. Require self-motivation and team-player abilities. Assist with program planning on field; maintain record of schedule and log-book of day to day duties and hours of work. Supervise check-in and check-outs, activities, fire drills, help with homework, artwork and games, and keep a health and safe environment.

Student Connect SoCal Community Outreach: SCAG Project **May '23-June '23**
Engage public to fill out surveys, conduct street events, Research and suggest new locations for more survey

Pl**anning Aide Intern:** **June '22-July '22**
Cal Poly Pomona Facility Planning and Management, CA.
Record keeping, cold calls, drawing figure grounds, site analysis, printout architectural drawing, keeping files, report writing, and administrative work.

Administrative Intern **Oct '21- Feb '22**
City of Tustin Department of Community Planning, Tustin, CA.
Review variance, condition permits, and design reviews, Quality control and update code files. Customer service and attend phone calls. Review General Plan, zoning, subdivision, and environmental report review. Work as a team and individually.

Event Planner Unpaid Intern **June '15 – Dec '15**
American Family Housing, Tustin, CA
Outreach, promotion, and marketing for "Summer Festival for Homeless Veterans". Sold out a stall and raise more than $ 3,000 through bringing in vendors.

Awards and Recognitions:
Research on Walkability, presented at OCC Symposium 2019 and 2020. And at Cal Poly Pomona, CA. 2023.
Topic: **"***Effects of New High-Density Residency on Walkability in Costa Mesa, CA***".**
Topic: "*How Mix-Use Land Contributes to Walkability in 19th Street, Costa Mesa, CA.*" 2023.

Skills: MS office, Sketch up, Rhino, AutoCAD, Adobe Creative Suite, Micro-Station, ArcGIS, and InDesign.

Administration Skill: Comfortable working in, group and individual setting, research, excellent customer service skills, and marketing and sales experience, organizational skills, general clerical tasks, data managing, data entry, report writing, and event management.

Clubs and Organization:
- Member of OC- American Planning Association.
- Member of Young Transportation Planners, LA, and American Planning Association.
- Orange Coast College: Scholarship in Architecture, and member Architecture Club.

#36

[redacted]

Page 1

Q1

Full Name:

Brendan Ford

Q2

Indicate the name of the Commission you are interested in serving on:

Arts Commission (Complete Questions 9-17 on the NextPage)

Q3

Indicate why you wish to serve on this Commission. Provide any experience or qualifications you may possess that you think would be beneficial to this Commission. A resume (optional) may be attached.

I live and work in Costa Mesa and am passionate about the arts.

I have been involved with the performing arts in Costa Mesa since 2006, first with the then-Orange County Performing Arts Center Business Partnership, then with the Segerstrom Center for the Arts Corporate Council (serving as Chair), where we launched the first-ever Arts and Business Leadership Fundraiser.

As a musical theatre actor and singer, I have sung at various Costa Mesa functions, including several SCFTA-related corporate events. I also sang the National Anthem at the Costa Mesa 3rd of July celebration at the OC Fairgrounds (three years running), as well as at Costa Mesa City Council meetings.

Q4

As a Commission member, what ideas or projects are of interest to you?

Here are some ideas:

1. Costa Mesa is the "City of the Arts," and is celebrated for it - deservedly so. I want to find ways to expand and enhance arts-related opportunities of all kinds, and in all forms, to benefit the City, its residents, and its visitors. Collaboration with SCFTA, OCMA, SCR, and other Costa Mesa-based arts organizations will be essential to doing so.

2. Many people do not appreciate or enjoy the arts simply because they haven't been exposed to them. Finding ways to create low-cost/free arts programs for residents might trigger a spark in someone who otherwise wouldn't go to a museum, or a play, or a musical, or a concert.

3. Arts education is often one of the first items cut in an education budget. Yet the evidence shows that participation in music, art, theatre, and dance is tremendously beneficial to students. It certainly was for me. Finding ways to collaborate with our friends at the Newport Mesa school district, or creating free installations, or free concerts in the park, could be a great way to get kids exposed to and more involved in the arts.

Q5

Respondent skipped this question

Optional Resume:

Q6

Contact Information:Note: This contact information will not be posted on the City's website or distributed to the public. However, this information is still subject to release pursuant to the California Public Records Act. Once appointed, Commission members must complete an Oath of Allegiance, administered by the City Clerk, required by Article XX, Section 3, of the Constitution of the State of California.

Name:	**Brendan Ford**
Address:	
Address 2:	
City/Town:	
ZIP/Postal Code:	
Email Address:	
Phone (cell):	

Q7

Signature Required:

By checking this box and typing my name below, I am electronically signing my application.

Q8

Full Name:

Brendan Ford

Page 2: QUESTIONS FOR ARTS COMMISSION APPLICANTS ONLY

Q9

Current or Most Recent Employer:

Ford & Diulio PC

Q10

Current or Most Recent Job Title:

Partner

Q11

Key Accomplishments:

Southern California SuperLawyer (2019-2025); Southern California Rising Star (2009-2011, 2015-2019); Top 25 Rising Star in Orange County (2016-2017); Top 100 Rising Star in Southern California (2016); Multi-Million Dollar Advocates; 10/10 rating on Avvo.com

Q12

Please share your background and experience or knowledge of the arts (visual and performing), arts education, arts administration and community outreach/engagement:

I live and work in Costa Mesa and am passionate about the arts. I have been involved with the performing arts in Costa Mesa since 2006, first with the then-Orange County Performing Arts Center Business Partnership, then with the Segerstrom Center for the Arts Corporate Council (serving as Chair), where we launched the first-ever Arts and Business Leadership Fundraiser. As a musical theatre actor and singer, I have sung at various Costa Mesa functions, including several SCFTA-related corporate events. I also sang the National Anthem at the Costa Mesa 3rd of July celebration at the OC Fairgrounds (three years running), as well as at Costa Mesa City Council meetings.

Q13

Why are you applying to be an Arts Commissioner for the City of Costa Mesa?

Because I love the arts and I love Costa Mesa. Being exposed to and involved in the performing arts all my life, I know the incredible impact that it can have on people. It not only fosters creativity, but also teaches discipline, deliberate practice, and teamwork.

Q14

Please share your vision for the arts in Costa Mesa:

A City of the Arts for ALL Costa Mesa residents, regardless of background, or socioeconomic status.

Q15

Please share your experience in producing and/or participating in Arts and multicultural programing:

I have participated in the performing arts since childhood. I also helped create programming through my work with SCFTA.

Q16

Please share any other relevant work experience, volunteer work, community activities or memberships:

None other than listed above.

Q17

How did you hear about this opportunity?

I learned about the Arts Commission through discussions with Debora Wondercheck and Mayor John Stephens. I applied when I received an email from the City advising that applications were being accepted.

#35

[redacted]

Page 1

Q1

Full Name:

Katherine Ryan ('Kate')

Q2

Indicate the name of the Commission you are interested in serving on:

Arts Commission (Complete Questions 9-17 on the NextPage)

Q3

Indicate why you wish to serve on this Commission. Provide any experience or qualifications you may possess that you think would be beneficial to this Commission. A resume (optional) may be attached.

As an artist, curator, and advocate for the transformative power of art, I am passionate about fostering creativity and connection within our community. Costa Mesa is a vibrant city, rich in artistic expression and cultural diversity, and I would be honored to contribute to its continued growth as a hub for the arts. Serving on the Arts Commission presents an opportunity to give back to a city that inspires me daily, championing initiatives that enhance access to the arts for all residents and visitors.

I bring a wealth of experience as a professional artist, art curator, and arts advocate, with over fifteen years of experience working in the arts in London, England as an arts administrator/ consultant.

My own artistic journey centers on exploring human experiences through material experimentaion and play, with a commitment to making art accessible and meaningful to diverse audiences.

Currently, I manage exhibitions at Kennedy Contemporary in Newport Beach, curating shows, liaising with artists, and engaging the public in meaningful dialogues around contemporary art. I've successfully curated exhibitions featuring a range of talented artists including initiatives to test and introduce new artists.

In addition to my work at the gallery, I am deeply embedded in the local art scene, an artist, and Arts Advocate, with a track record of building connections between artists, collectors, and art enthusiasts. My experience also includes: volunteering for the city of Costa Mesa, Arts Grant Selection Panel, and Volunteer Art compeition judge for NMUSD.

Beyond my professional qualifications, I am a resident of Costa Mesa and a mother who is invested in our city's future. My perspective as a parent allows me to see the importance of integrating the arts into public spaces and educational programs.

Q4

As a Commission member, what ideas or projects are of interest to you?

I am committed to fostering equity in the arts by prioritizing accessibility, inclusion, and representation. My key interests include:

* Public Art: Expanding murals, sculptures, and installations that reflect Costa Mesa's diverse cultural identity and foster pride.

* Youth Engagement: Introducing workshops and mentorships to nurture young talent and ensure fair resource access.

* Artist Showcases: Highlighting artists through rotating exhibitions.

* A Community Hub: A subsidized place for artists and creative professionals to work and produce exhibitions for the public to enjoy

* Cultural Festivals: Collaborating on festivals celebrating the city's diversity and creativity introducing new and exciting visual, musical and performative arts to our community.

* Sustainability: Promoting environmentally conscious art practices and equitable resource distribution.

Q5

Respondent skipped this question

Optional Resume:

Q6

Contact Information:Note: This contact information will not be posted on the City's website or distributed to the public. However, this information is still subject to release pursuant to the California Public Records Act. Once appointed, Commission members must complete an Oath of Allegiance, administered by the City Clerk, required by Article XX, Section 3, of the Constitution of the State of California.

Name: **Kate Ryan**

Address: [redacted]

Address 2:

City/Town:

ZIP/Postal Code:

Email Address:

Phone (cell):

Q7

By checking this box and typing my name below, I am electronically signing my application.

Signature Required:

Q8

Full Name:

Katherine Eleanor Ryan

Page 2: QUESTIONS FOR ARTS COMMISSION APPLICANTS ONLY

Q9

Current or Most Recent Employer:

Kennedy Contemporary (Art Gallery) 2043 Westcliff Dr Suite 102, Newport Beach, CA 92660

Q10

Current or Most Recent Job Title:

Gallery Manager

Q11

Key Accomplishments:

Most recently, as a curator I have devised and organized multiple exhibitions featuring a diverse range of artists, enhancing public engagement with contemporary art in both the commercial and not for profit sector, in Orange County. Working in a gallery I have facilitated significant art sales, supporting both the gallery and artists. I have Introduced innovative strategies to test and showcase new artists in the community, contributing to the gallery's growth and client satisfaction and I have developed educational and interactive art experiences to deepen the connection between the public and the art on display. I have continued to develop my painting practice over the past ten years, exhibiting annually in various spaces, selling paintings directly to collectors and also licensing my artwork to retail partners for distribution. I am also an active arts advocate in my community. Tate Gallery, London, UK Member Acquisition Marketing Executive (Aug 2014–Jan 2015) K A T E R Y A N • Developed and executed membership recruitment campaigns across all four Tate galleries, enhancing brand visibility through digital and social media strategies. • Collaborated with digital marketing agencies to optimize online membership acquisition. Southbank Centre, London, UK Membership Marketing Officer (Feb 2014–Jul 2014) • Led acquisition and retention campaigns for the Southbank Centre's membership program, increasing membership sales and enhancing brand recognition. • Conducted market research to inform targeted marketing strategies and improve customer engagement. Anna Lou of London, UK Consultant (Apr 2013–Jan 2014) • Enhanced online strategy by establishing partnerships with key fashion and lifestyle media, resulting in a 20% increase in sales. • Secured new trade customers and expanded brand reach through strategic collaborations. British Council, London, UK Marketing, Communications, and Brand Manager, London 2012 Olympics (Apr 2011–Jan 2013) • Delivered a £2 million marketing program for the British Council's partnership with the London 2012 Olympics, collaborating with high-profile stakeholders to deliver successful campaigns. • Developed and distributed global promotional toolkits and managed brand communications across 75 offices. Arts Marketing and Communications Officer (Apr 2008–Mar 2011) • Managed marketing and communication efforts for the Arts Department, working with top design agencies to produce engaging content for visual arts, literature, and performance sectors. • Spearheaded the development of a new online platform for the Creative and Cultural Economy team.

Q12

Please share your background and experience or knowledge of the arts (visual and performing), arts education, arts administration and community outreach/engagement:

I am a professional artist having studied art and art history at degree level, specializing in painterly abstraction, with a deep passion for exploring human experiences through visual art. My work has been exhibited in galleries and collected both locally and internationally. I have extensive experience in arts administration, including planning and executing exhibitions, building relationships with artists, and fostering public engagement. My recent role involves advising clients on art acquisitions, often bridging the gap between artistic expression and personal or communal meaning. Prior to relocating to the US from London, in 2015, I worked as arts consultant in various Cultural Institutions including the Tate Gallery, British Council (The Cultural Relations Organization for the UK) and Southbank Center. See CV attached. I have experience in community outreach, having worked on initiatives to connect emerging artists with broader audiences, promote diversity in the arts. At the British Councul, UK I collaborated with organizations and artists to produce 'Unlimited' - A major component of the Paralympic Games, Cultural Olympiad Cultural Festival. We commissioned mulitple, highly talented disabled artist performers to create performances as part of the Festival at prestigious venues across London during the London 2012 Games, including the Southbank Center. I learned a lot during this time.

Q13

Why are you applying to be an Arts Commissioner for the City of Costa Mesa?

Costa Mesa is a city I deeply care about, both as a resident and as an artist. I want to contribute my expertise to enhance its reputation as a cultural hub. As an Arts Commissioner, I aim to champion programs that make art accessible, celebrate the city's diversity, and encourage creative expression for all residents. I believe my professional background and passion for the arts can help shape a vibrant, inclusive artistic landscape in Costa Mesa. As an artist living in this city I want there to be more opportunities for artists to participate and share their work and add value, and as a parent of elementary aged children, I want to ensure that the city continues to invest in the arts for all. I believe that art has the power to bring people together, to spark conversation, and to inspire change. I would be honored to help shape the future of the arts in Costa Mesa through innovative, inclusive, and community-driven initiatives. I feel it would enhance my life and art practice to serve and connect with my community in this way.

Q14

Please share your vision for the arts in Costa Mesa:

My vision for Costa Mesa is to expand opportunities for artists, integrate art into public spaces, and foster partnerships between artists, schools, and businesses. I imagine a city where creativity is central to its identity and art connects people across diverse backgrounds. I support incrementally increasing the arts budget, guided by the recommendations of the City's Arts Specialist and Arts Commissioners. I also envision an Art Center—a dedicated space for exhibitions and community gatherings—aligned with the Arts Master Plan. Additionally, subsidized workspaces for artists and creative professionals could provide a creative hub with public amenities, such as a welcoming cafeteria, fostering community and inclusivity.

Q15

Please share your experience in producing and/or participating in Arts and multicultural programing:

In the past few years I have curated and participated in exhibitions that feature artists from diverse backgrounds, highlighting unique cultural perspectives of women at She/ They Gallery in Santa Ana. bringing together artists, collectors, and the public. In 2023, I was selected as guest artist host for the inaugural city of Costa Mesa Art Walk, showcasing my dedication to our local arts community. I actively participate in art exhibitions and community-driven projects across Orange County and serve as a volunteer board member of Non Profit, She They Gallery, in Santa Ana and as Curator and Gallery Manager in Kennedy Contempoary, commercial gallery. Additional contributions to the local arts scene include volunteering as a judge for the Newport Mesa Senior Art Showcase and selecting Arts Grantees for the City of Costa Mesa. Between 2015 and 2017, I organized drawing workshops and curated exhibitions at Location 1980 Gallery in Costa Mesa, fostering engagement and creativity within the community.

Q16

Please share any other relevant work experience, volunteer work, community activities or memberships:

Professionally, I have an extensive background in arts administration and communications, including: Gallery Manager, Kennedy Contemporary. Marketing Officer, Tate Gallery and Southbank Centre, London (2013–2014). Communications Manager, London 2012 Cultural Olympiad, British Council (2011–2012). Arts Officer, British Council (2008–2011) I actively pursue professional development as a member of established artist networks that promote collaboration and mentorship, including: Creative Visionary Program (2019, 2024), Artist Alliance (2023), Connected Artists (2019–2022)

Q17

How did you hear about this opportunity?

From the City Website and also Commissioner Ochoa informed me. Thank you

If you DO NOT receive a confirmation within 24 hours, please contact our office at (714) 754-5225.

City of Costa Mesa
Application for Commission Appointment

All information on this page only, is considered public information and will be released to the public, including being posted on the City's website.

Name: **Fisher Derderian**

Indicate the name of the Commission you are interested in serving on:

Arts Commission

City of Costa Mesa
77 Fair Drive, Costa Mesa, CA 92626

1. Indicate why you wish to serve on this Commission. Provide any experience or qualifications you may possess that you think would be beneficial to this Commission. A resume (optional) may be attached.
(Note: All information contained on the resume is public information, will be distributed to the public and posted on the City's website).

As a proud resident of Costa Mesa, I am deeply committed to supporting our city's identity as the "City of the Arts." In my role as Executive Director of an international arts and culture nonprofit, I've collaborated with world-renowned artists, academics, and cultural leaders to create programs that celebrate beauty and tradition while strengthening communities. These experiences have shown me how art can inspire creativity, foster connection, and elevate public spaces.

I've led initiatives that bring people together through the humanities, from launching a $50,000 annual prize for lifetime achievement to organizing programs across North and South America, Europe, and Asia. These efforts include partnerships with congressional offices, international institutions, and local organizations to develop initiatives that blend vision with tangible outcomes.

As a returning member of the Arts Commission, I am eager to continue championing projects that enrich Costa Mesa's cultural life and connect our residents to the arts in meaningful ways. By advancing initiatives that celebrate creativity and enhance our public spaces, I aim to help Costa Mesa continue flourishing as a vibrant, artistic community.

2. As a Commission member, what ideas or projects are of interest to you?

As an Arts Commissioner, my focus is on building on Costa Mesa's achievements in the arts while setting a bold vision for the future. I've enjoyed contributing to initiatives like the inaugural Poet Laureate program, the utility box art program, and developing the framework for public murals and art installations. These projects reflect the power of art to beautify public spaces and foster a sense of belonging for all residents.

As we approach the conclusion of the current Arts & Culture Master Plan, I'm excited to be part of envisioning the next chapter for Costa Mesa's arts initiatives. This is a unique moment to reflect on the progress made—including the establishment of the Arts Commission and the hiring of city arts staff—and set ambitious goals for the next five years. I'm particularly interested in exploring opportunities for new public art commissions, expanding access to the arts for all neighborhoods, and continuing to strengthen Costa Mesa's identity as a destination for creative talent and cultural life.

3. **FOR ARTS COMMISSION APPLICANTS ONLY**

Please complete the additional Arts Commission questionnaire and include with this application.

Note: This contact information will not be posted on the City's website or distributed to the public. However, this information is still subject to release pursuant to the California Public Records Act.

4. Contact Information:

Name: **Fisher Derderian**

[redacted]

Note: Once appointed, Commission members must complete an Oath of Allegiance, administered by the City Clerk, required by Article XX, Section 3, of the Constitution of the State of California.

☐ By checking this box and typing my name below, I am electronically signing my application.

Signature: [redacted] Date: **January 10, 2025**

Please submit application by mail, email or bring to City Hall no later than 5 p.m. on Friday, January 10, 2025. The appointments are tentatively scheduled for the January 21, 2025 City Council meeting.

Mailing Address:

City Clerk's Office
City of Costa Mesa
P.O. Box 1200
Costa Mesa, CA 92628-1200
Phone: (714) 754-5225
Fax: (714) 754-4942
cityclerk@costamesaca.gov

City of Costa Mesa
Arts Commission Questionnaire

FOR ARTS COMMISSION APPLICANTS ONLY

1. **Current or Most Recent Employer:**

Roger Scruton Legacy Foundation

2. **Current or Most Recent Job Title:**

Executive Director

3. **Key Accomplishments:**

As Founder and Executive Director of the Roger Scruton Legacy Foundation, I built an international arts nonprofit from the ground up with no initial funding. Over time, I established separate U.S. and U.K. charities, each with independent boards, and recruited global advisory bodies of artists, scholars, and policymakers. Through strategic programming, I've led initiatives that engage over 12,000 participants globally, including academic conferences, public performances, and international partnerships. Under my leadership, the Foundation has grown its annual budget to over a half-million dollars, expanded its reach across multiple continents, and hosted programs that celebrate beauty, tradition, and belonging. This experience has taught me how to unite stakeholders, secure funding, and turn vision into action.

4. **Please share your background and experience or knowledge of the arts (visual and performing), arts education, arts administration and community outreach/engagement:**

The arts have always been a central part of my life, from studying and performing music as a young student to leading international cultural initiatives as an adult. I've studied piano, trombone, and bass guitar, performing professionally in venues across the United States. Academically, I pursued the philosophy of art under Sir Roger Scruton, producing a thesis on how art shapes and enriches our lives.

As Executive Director of an arts and culture nonprofit, I've developed and implemented programming that includes global conferences, academic fellowships, and performances of new works. These efforts have connected communities, engaged audiences across continents, and advanced conversations about the role of beauty and creativity in civic life. Locally, my work as an Arts Commissioner has involved selecting public art projects, developing frameworks for new initiatives, and advocating for opportunities that bring the arts to all Costa Mesans.

5. **Why are you applying to be an Arts Commissioner for the City of Costa Mesa?**

I believe the arts have a unique power to connect people, inspire creativity, and enrich communities. Costa Mesa's commitment to its identity as the "City of the Arts" is a source of pride, and I'm eager to contribute to its growth. Through my work leading an international arts organization, I've seen firsthand how beauty and creativity can transform public spaces and bring people together. As a returning Arts Commissioner, I hope to continue advancing initiatives that celebrate Costa Mesa's artistic identity, foster opportunities for artists, and make the arts available to our many constituents in the city. My goal is to help our city become an even more beautiful place for residents and visitors alike.

6. **Please share your vision for the arts in Costa Mesa:**

My vision is to see Costa Mesa flourish as a city where beauty and creativity are woven into the fabric of daily life, making it a welcoming and inspiring place for all. As a parent, I have a personal stake in the future of our community and wish to help build a city that remains beautiful and enriching for generations to come. This vision includes fostering public art that enhances the character of our neighborhoods, supporting creative enterprises, and expanding access to cultural opportunities for residents of all ages and incomes. By prioritizing public-private partnerships, we can bring together businesses, civic leaders, and nonprofits to realize projects that enrich our public spaces and celebrate Costa Mesa's identity as the "City of the Arts." By focusing on beauty as a transformative force, we can create a creative and enduring community that reflects the aspirations of its residents.

7. **Please share your experience in producing and/or participating in arts and multicultural programming:**

My experience includes producing arts and cultural programming that spans continents and disciplines. I've hosted international conferences at the University of Cambridge and in Guatemala, bringing together artists, scholars, and audiences from around the world. I've produced the worldwide premiere of an opera, curated lecture series, and organized cultural programming that celebrates both traditional and contemporary arts.

These programs have connected far-reaching communities, advanced meaningful conversations about culture and beauty, and highlighted the role of the arts in fostering belonging and cultural identity. Locally, my work as an Arts Commissioner has supported public art initiatives and outreach efforts that reflect Costa Mesa's impressive artistic community.

8. **Please share any other relevant work experience, volunteer work, community activities or memberships:**

In addition to leading the Roger Scruton Legacy Foundation, I've collaborated with organizations across the U.S., U.K., Latin America, and Asia to advance cultural initiatives. My work has included strategic partnerships, international programming, and advocating for the role of the arts in civic life. I've also adjudicated exhibitions for nationally recognized institutions, such as the National Liberty Museum, further reflecting my commitment to artistic excellence.

Locally, I have contributed to Costa Mesa's public art efforts and am passionate about fostering spaces of belonging and opportunity. I am also a strong advocate for education and mentorship, having supported programs that connect emerging leaders with resources and opportunities to grow. These experiences have equipped me to serve Costa Mesa's arts community with vision, dedication, and a passion for creativity.

9. **How did you hear about this opportunity?**

I learned about this opportunity through announcements at previous Arts Commission meetings

#5

[redacted]

Page 1

Q1

Full Name:

Joy Ferguson

Q2

Indicate the name of the Commission you are interested in serving on:

Arts Commission (Complete Questions 9-17 on the NextPage)

Q3

Indicate why you wish to serve on this Commission. Provide any experience or qualifications you may possess that you think would be beneficial to this Commission. A resume (optional) may be attached.

I would like to see Costa Mesa thrive in the arts. It is an honor living here and would love to be more involved in my community. I have been teaching beginner modern calligraphy class for 2 years in the area and I have noticed people are searching for a sense of community and creativity.

Q4

As a Commission member, what ideas or projects are of interest to you?

I would like to set up activities for the community to experience the arts where thru visualizations, actually creative projects/community classes, or gather artists together for fairs.

Q5

Optional Resume:

Respondent skipped this question

Q6

Contact Information:Note: This contact information will not be posted on the City's website or distributed to the public. However, this information is still subject to release pursuant to the California Public Records Act. Once appointed, Commission members must complete an Oath of Allegiance, administered by the City Clerk, required by Article XX, Section 3, of the Constitution of the State of California.

Name:	**Joy Ferguson**
Address:	[redacted]
City/Town:	
ZIP/Postal Code:	
Email Address:	
Phone (cell):	

Q7

Signature Required:

By checking this box and typing my name below, I am electronically signing my application.

Q8

Full Name:

Joy Ferguson

Page 2: QUESTIONS FOR ARTS COMMISSION APPLICANTS ONLY

Q9

Current or Most Recent Employer:

PIMCO

Q10

Current or Most Recent Job Title:

Senior Portfolio Associate

Q11

Key Accomplishments:

I have worked in Finance for 30 years

Q12

Please share your background and experience or knowledge of the arts (visual and performing), arts education, arts administration and community outreach/engagement:

I have been doing calligraphy for 10 years and have been teaching calligraphy and brush lettering for 2 years.

Q13

Why are you applying to be an Arts Commissioner for the City of Costa Mesa?

I would love to be involved with the community.

Q14

Please share your vision for the arts in Costa Mesa:

I would like to see the city shine even more with arts...all through out the community

Q15

Please share your experience in producing and/or participating in Arts and multicultural programing:

I conduct classes for the public, private parties, and corporate events.

Q16

Please share any other relevant work experience, volunteer work, community activities or memberships:

I volunteer at work on multiple activities. Most of the volunteer activities I have done are creative endeavors- Writing notes to familes and kids with cancer.

Q17

How did you hear about this opportunity?

email

#18

[redacted]

Page 1

Q1

Full Name:

Allison Mann

Q2

Indicate the name of the Commission you are interested in serving on:

Arts Commission (Complete Questions 9-17 on the NextPage)

Q3

Indicate why you wish to serve on this Commission. Provide any experience or qualifications you may possess that you think would be beneficial to this Commission. A resume (optional) may be attached.

Having currently served 2 years on the 1st Arts Commission, I feel there is more work to do and I'm finally settling into understanding the main purpose of this Commission and the work it involves to help create and preserve the Arts in Costa Mesa. My past experience includes growing up in a Theater/Acting Family. For over 25 years we produced, directed, acted and ran our own equity waiver theater in Los Angeles, The MET Theatre, from the 1970's - 2000's. My father was an exceptional character actor (James Gammon) and we grew up on location with him during filming and Broadway Productions, completely enveloped in the Arts. I was also an actress for 20 years, as well as an owner of a high end denim company run out of LA's downtown Fashion District for 5 years. I will always be an advocate and patron of the Arts.

Q4

As a Commission member, what ideas or projects are of interest to you?

Being witness to and helping advocate for the Butterfly Garden, the Music Festival in the Canyon, Art Venture and the many other projects we had the opportunity to work on these past 2 years has been tremendous. Being involved in helping construct new programs, such as Costa Mesa's Poet Laureate, as well as choosing Artwork for utility boxes are projects I'm proud to have been a part of. I hope to continue on the Commission for as long as it will have me.

Q5

Optional Resume:

Respondent skipped this question

Q6

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Name:	**Allison Mann**
Address:	[redacted]
City/Town:	
ZIP/Postal Code:	
Email Address:	
Phone (cell):	

Q7

Signature Required:

By checking this box and typing my name below, I am electronically signing my application.

Q8

Full Name:

Allison Mann

Page 2: QUESTIONS FOR ARTS COMMISSION APPLICANTS ONLY

Q9

Current or Most Recent Employer:

I’m a mother of 3 children (ages 12-16).

Q10

Current or Most Recent Job Title:

Arts Commissioner

Q11

Key Accomplishments:

My 3 children, My marriage, being on the 1st Arts Commission in Costa Mesa , Artistic Director of the MET Theatre in Los Angeles.

Q12

Please share your background and experience or knowledge of the arts (visual and performing), arts education, arts administration and community outreach/engagement:

25 years + of all aspects of live theater experience, I've also worked with numerous non-profit organizations and charities to raise money for Art /Artists/Organizations Associated with Art/Artists. I've studied many forms of Art as well

Q13

Why are you applying to be an Arts Commissioner for the City of Costa Mesa?

It's exciting and it helps keep me involved and up to date with Art in our City .

Q14

Please share your vision for the arts in Costa Mesa:

I envision our city covered in different mediums of Art where it offers as many options as there are human emotions.

Q15

Please share your experience in producing and/or participating in Arts and multicultural programing:

25+ years in theater, tv, movies. And in Los Angeles, it's all multi cultural in my experience. Those are the stories told that make life interesting.

Q16

Please share any other relevant work experience, volunteer work, community activities or memberships:

As a mom of 3 teenagers, I've been in PTA at all levels. I've taught Sunday School for 6 years at Saints Simon & Jude Catholic Church in Huntington Beach, but my favorite by far has been being an Arts Commissioner in Costa Mesa and working with some of the most amazing Artists/Arts Activists. The caliber of people on the first Arts Commission, I thought was stellar and I was so proud to get to know & work along side these professionals.

Q17

How did you hear about this opportunity?

Email

#6

[redacted]

Page 1

Q1

Full Name:

Lauren Hillary

Q2

Indicate the name of the Commission you are interested in serving on:

Arts Commission (Complete Questions 9-17 on the NextPage)

Q3

Indicate why you wish to serve on this Commission. Provide any experience or qualifications you may possess that you think would be beneficial to this Commission. A resume (optional) may be attached.

As a local artist here in Costa Mesa, I would love to be more involved in developing the arts here in our community.

Q4

As a Commission member, what ideas or projects are of interest to you?

Public Art, Artist Talks, Gallery Openings, Grants and Funding. Museum days.

Q5

Optional Resume:

Respondent skipped this question

Q6

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Name:	**Lauren Hillary**
Address:	[redacted]
City/Town:	
ZIP/Postal Code:	
Email Address:	
Phone (cell):	

Q7

Signature Required:

By checking this box and typing my name below, I am electronically signing my application.

Q8

Full Name:

Lauren Hillary

Page 2: QUESTIONS FOR ARTS COMMISSION APPLICANTS ONLY

Q9

Current or Most Recent Employer:

Self Employed

Q10

Current or Most Recent Job Title:

Fine Art Photographer

Q11

Key Accomplishments:

Published works, Juried Exhibitions. Personal Exhibitions.

Q12

Please share your background and experience or knowledge of the arts (visual and performing), arts education, arts administration and community outreach/engagement:

I have been an artist all of my life. I graduated with a BFA in Photography and have had my own photography business for over 20 years.

Q13

Why are you applying to be an Arts Commissioner for the City of Costa Mesa?

I would love to be more involved in the devoplment of the Arts here, we have an incredible Museum and so many local talented artsits. I would love to be more immersed.

Q14

Please share your vision for the arts in Costa Mesa:

I invision more emphasis on local art fairs, more public art spaces. Art events for adults and children. Museum days/evenings. I would love it to have a more edgy vibe of Laguna Beach.

Q15

Please share your experience in producing and/or participating in Arts and multicultural programing:

I have helped produce Art gallery openings and art walks. Participated in Juried Exhibitions locally and virtually.

Q16

Please share any other relevant work experience, volunteer work, community activities or memberships:

I am member of The Orange County Museum Of Art.

Q17

How did you hear about this opportunity?

I received an email from the City of Costa Mesa.

#19

[redacted]

Page 1

Q1

Full Name:

Seana Brief

Q2

Indicate the name of the Commission you are interested in serving on:

Arts Commission (Complete Questions 9-17 on the NextPage)

Q3

Indicate why you wish to serve on this Commission. Provide any experience or qualifications you may possess that you think would be beneficial to this Commission. A resume (optional) may be attached.

I am passionate about fostering creativity and enhancing the cultural landscape of Costa Mesa, and I am eager to serve on this Commission to contribute to its mission of making our city a vibrant hub for arts and culture. My professional and personal experiences align closely with the Commission's objectives of promoting imagination, inspiration, and innovation, as well as enriching the daily lives of our community members through the arts.

As a high school legal studies teacher for the past 10 years, I have cultivated skills in education, communication, and leadership, which are essential for engaging with diverse groups and advocating for meaningful initiatives. I understand the importance of education in shaping future generations, and I strongly believe that arts education is equally critical in fostering creativity and critical thinking among youth.

In addition, my involvement in the arts has been both deep and multifaceted. As the lead singer of a local band, I have had the privilege of performing for charity events in Costa Mesa, using music as a vehicle to bring people together and support important causes. My role as Music Director for the Kaiser Elementary school plays for 10 years has allowed me to guide young students in expressing themselves creatively, while my decade of experience as a youth theater summer camp instructor has further deepened my commitment to nurturing artistic talent in our community’s youth.

These experiences have provided me with a unique perspective on how the arts can foster civic pride, build community, and enrich the lives of Costa Mesa residents. I believe my background in education and the arts, combined with my passion for creative expression and community service, make me well-equipped to contribute meaningfully to the Arts Commission's mission.

It would be an honor to serve on this Commission and help ensure that Costa Mesa remains a city where creativity thrives and where the arts are accessible, celebrated, and valued by all.

Q4

As a Commission member, what ideas or projects are of interest to you?

As a Commission member, I would be enthusiastic about advancing projects and initiatives that celebrate Costa Mesa's vibrant arts community and provide opportunities for creative expression across all mediums. Several ideas that I am particularly passionate about include:

Enhanced Art Crawls with Stronger Community Engagement
I would advocate for continuing and expanding the city's art crawls, ensuring they are marketed and promoted more effectively to maximize community participation. These events can become cornerstone experiences for Costa Mesa residents and visitors, showcasing the talent of our local artists, musicians, and performers while strengthening civic pride.

Fostering Local Student Participation in the Arts
I envision initiatives that actively involve local students in the arts, such as contests, gallery displays of their work, art shows and openings, and mentorship programs featuring local artists. These efforts would inspire young people to explore their creativity, provide them with valuable learning experiences, and connect them with our city's rich network of artists and creatives.

Guest Speaker Series with Business Sponsorship
A guest speaker series featuring local artists, performers, and creative entrepreneurs would bring fresh inspiration to the community while promoting collaboration between the arts and local businesses. Sponsorships and partnerships with local businesses could make this series financially sustainable while fostering a deeper connection between the arts and the city's economic vitality.

Sidewalk Art Shows and Interactive Opportunities
Organizing sidewalk art shows would create accessible and welcoming spaces for the community to engage with art. These events could feature live art demonstrations, opportunities for residents to participate in creating art, and displays from local artists of all ages and skill levels.

Expanded Opportunities for Local Artists and Performers
I am particularly interested in creating more public shows and events that celebrate the work of Costa Mesa's local artists, performers, and musicians. This could include outdoor concerts, pop-up exhibitions, or themed festivals that provide a platform for local talent to shine.

Each of these ideas not only supports the Commission's mission of fostering imagination, inspiration, and innovation but also reinforces Costa Mesa's identity as a city where arts and culture thrive. I would be thrilled to collaborate with fellow Commission members, local artists, and the broader community to bring these projects to life and further enrich the cultural fabric of our city.

Q5

Optional Resume:

2024%20Seana%20Resume%20for%20Education.docx (9.4KB)

Q6

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Name:	**Seana Brief**
Address:	[redacted]
City/Town:	
ZIP/Postal Code:	
Email Address:	
Phone (cell):	

Q7

Signature Required:

By checking this box and typing my name below, I am electronically signing my application.

Q8

Full Name:

Seana Brief

Page 2: QUESTIONS FOR ARTS COMMISSION APPLICANTS ONLY

Q9

Current or Most Recent Employer:

North Orange County ROP/Anaheim Union High School District/Cypress High School

Q10

Current or Most Recent Job Title:

Legal Studies Teacher

Q11

Key Accomplishments:

Besides the obvious answer of being the mother to a super child, I have had many accomplishments that I am proud of. I have also had some failures, but they have only made me stronger and wiser, so I do not regret them. I am proud of the fact that I have mentored hundreds of students in my 10 plus years of teaching, helping to make them successful, happy, and confident in their abilities and talents. I have been blessed to be able to do that through public education and also through private events and companies, so I have been able to reach many, and hopefully I have made a positive difference in their lives.

Q12

Please share your background and experience or knowledge of the arts (visual and performing), arts education, arts administration and community outreach/engagement:

10 years in public education at Cypress high School, 11 years in a local band playing charities and local events, a BA in English/creative writing and a minor in photography. A Masters degree in professional writing from USC (I wrote a play for my thesis and it was professionally performed), 10 years as the music director for the Kaiser Elementary School plays, volunteer for theater program at Newport Harbor High School, 10 years as director of youth summer camps for musical theater.

Q13

Why are you applying to be an Arts Commissioner for the City of Costa Mesa?

I feel that I would be able to make a significant contribution to continuing and expanding Costa Mesa's art mission. I would be thrilled to collaborate with fellow Commission members, local artists, and the broader community to bring art to life and further enrich the cultural fabric of our city.

Q14

Please share your vision for the arts in Costa Mesa:

As a Commission member, I would be enthusiastic about advancing projects and initiatives that celebrate Costa Mesa's vibrant arts community and provide opportunities for creative expression across all mediums. Several ideas that I am particularly passionate about include: Enhanced Art Crawls with Stronger Community Engagement I would advocate for continuing and expanding the city's art crawls, ensuring they are marketed and promoted more effectively to maximize community participation. These events can become cornerstone experiences for Costa Mesa residents and visitors, showcasing the talent of our local artists, musicians, and performers while strengthening civic pride. Fostering Local Student Participation in the Arts I envision initiatives that actively involve local students in the arts, such as contests, gallery displays of their work, art shows and openings, and mentorship programs featuring local artists. These efforts would inspire young people to explore their creativity, provide them with valuable learning experiences, and connect them with our city's rich network of artists and creatives. Guest Speaker Series with Business Sponsorship A guest speaker series featuring local artists, performers, and creative entrepreneurs would bring fresh inspiration to the community while promoting collaboration between the arts and local businesses. Sponsorships and partnerships with local businesses could make this series financially sustainable while fostering a deeper connection between the arts and the city's economic vitality. Sidewalk Art Shows and Interactive Opportunities Organizing sidewalk art shows would create accessible and welcoming spaces for the community to engage with art. These events could feature live art demonstrations, opportunities for residents to participate in creating art, and displays from local artists of all ages and skill levels. Expanded Opportunities for Local Artists and Performers I am particularly interested in creating more public shows and events that celebrate the work of Costa Mesa's local artists, performers, and musicians. This could include outdoor concerts, pop-up exhibitions, or themed festivals that provide a platform for local talent to shine.

Q15

Please share your experience in producing and/or participating in Arts and multicultural programing:

I have not only worked as a director/music director for the past 10 years, I have also helped with backstage duties during live shows that include costumes, microphones and sound, makeup, and some stage manager duties.

Q16

Please share any other relevant work experience, volunteer work, community activities or memberships:

Please see answers above and/or my resume.

Q17

How did you hear about this opportunity?

I am an avid reader of the city newsletter and am always curious to see what is happening in my city. When this opportunity arose, I was excited to throw my hat into the ring and contribute to a cause that is so near and dear to my heart.

Seana Brief

[redacted]

My goal is to introduce students to real-world issues and explore creative solutions, whether within the law or other mediums, in order for them to achieve future success and happiness.

Experience

August 2014 – Current

Teacher, ROP/Anaheim Union High School District

I created the curriculum (civil law pathway) and currently teaches both the Legal Practices and Public Safety career pathways at Cypress High School. The pathways are integral to the Law and Justice Signature Academy at Cypress High School. I assisted with the Civic Learning award from Chief Justice of the California Supreme Court and the Civic Learning High School designation. I was the 2018-2019 Advisor for the Cypress Speech and Debate Team. Leading 6 out of 10 varsity competitors to the state championship.

Teacher, Saturday Academy of Law/UCI

Legal teacher since 2016 for the Saturday Academy of Law (SAL) at UCI. SAL is a program for ninth graders to acclimate them to the ideas of law and a legal profession career.

****Substitute Teacher** for NMUSD from 2013-2014

****Legal Professional** from 2004-2013, various companies and positions

****Private Business Owner** from 1997-2009, Signature Service Nationwide Mobile Notary Service (1997-2007) and Picture This! (2007-2009) photo business.

November 2011 – Present

Music Director/Director, Braverplayers Theater Company

Teaching music instruction for over 20 theatrical musicals and summer camps for youth ages 8-18. Directed musicals for ages 8-14.

Education

May 2010

JD (Juris Doctorate), Trinity Law School

May 1996

MPW (Masters of Professional Writing), USC

****Bachelor's degree (BA) in English/Creative Writing** from CSUSB (San Bernardino), Graduated in May 1994

****CTE teaching credential in Business,** obtained 2014

Skills

- Relatability—I have a knack of relating to students in a way that they understand and gravitate towards.
- Entertaining—I use my natural entertaining qualities to keep students engaged and participating.
- Fair and unbiased—I believe in the art of conversation and working things out with our words. I let students have a voice and they appreciate that.
- Cheerfulness and optimism—When I approach the lessons with this attitude, I find the students reciprocate.

Activities

Work-Based Learning Coordinator for Cypress High School, AUHSD

Music Director for 10 years for Kaiser Elementary School Play.

Established and Advised the 2023-24 Peer Mediation Program through the Whitaker Peace and Development Initiative.

Gear Up Instructor from 2018-2021, summer programs at Cal State University Fullerton

Lead singer in Orange County band, The Buzz Band (private parties and local charities, including the Mesa Verde Country Club Classic for youth sports for 7 years).

#22

[redacted]

Page 1

Q1

Full Name:

Kathryn Boren

Q2

Indicate the name of the Commission you are interested in serving on:

Arts Commission (Complete Questions 9-17 on the NextPage)

,

Parks and Community Services Commission,

Planning Commission

Q3

Indicate why you wish to serve on this Commission. Provide any experience or qualifications you may possess that you think would be beneficial to this Commission. A resume (optional) may be attached.

I am interested in serving my local community. I moved to beautiful Costa Mesa about two years ago, previously I lived in Fresno for 13 years and served on several appointed boards for non-profits and local government. Professionally, I have been in Public Relations and Public Affairs for the last 25 years and hold a Masters in the Science of Law with a focus on Water and Environmental Law. I was formerly the Senior Communications Officer for the California Department of Public Health's VaccinateALL 58 campaign which ran a $100m advertising and public relations/affairs program for the State during the pandemic, and currently work with environmental and sustainability clients in California and nationally.

Q4

As a Commission member, what ideas or projects are of interest to you?

I am particularly interested in helping Costa Mesa pursue its forward thinking agenda. I will go where I am most needed and my professional and education background will be of most service to my fellow community members.

Q5

Optional Resume:

Respondent skipped this question

Q6

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Name:	**Kathryn Boren**
Address:	[redacted]
City/Town:	
ZIP/Postal Code:	
Email Address:	
Phone (cell):	

Q7

Signature Required:

By checking this box and typing my name below, I am electronically signing my application.

Q8

Full Name:

Kathryn Boren

Page 2: QUESTIONS FOR ARTS COMMISSION APPLICANTS ONLY

Q9

Current or Most Recent Employer:

Self Employed

Q10

Current or Most Recent Job Title:

Principal and CEO

Q11

Key Accomplishments:

Successfully stewarded large creative campaigns for clients and the state of California which included enlisting local artists who speak directly to their community for several commissioned projects.

Q12

Please share your background and experience or knowledge of the arts (visual and performing), arts education, arts administration and community outreach/engagement:

During my time in public relations and marketing, specifically on the VaccinateALL 58 campaign for the California Department of Public Health, we enlisted several local muralists throughout the state to represent their communities during one of the most difficult times in our recent history as a state and nation. We worked with over 127 different non-profits and local organizations to ensure the representation of the community was grounded in the community voice, allowing them to lead. I am proud to say that those murals survive today and are integral parts of the legacy of the pandemic that contribute beauty to the surrounding area commemorating a time and the people lost that indelibly remains with all of us.

Q13

Why are you applying to be an Arts Commissioner for the City of Costa Mesa?

My grandmother passed away from COVID in 2021, she taught me to paint. I can remember hours spent with her when I was young laboring over oil paintings and watching her skillful hand sweep across the canvas. She imprinted an appreciation for art, what it does for the soul and how it can bring to life a place within oneself that is otherwise underrepresented with words. I want to serve on the Arts Commission to honor her legacy and to continue her pursuit of educating others about art.

Q14

Please share your vision for the arts in Costa Mesa:

I believe art is for everyone, it comes in so many forms and is so deeply personal to each that observes or creates it. My vision is one of education and exposure, ensuring we are promoting the arts in a versatile and accessible way.

Q15

Please share your experience in producing and/or participating in Arts and multicultural programing:

As mentioned above, an achievement I am particularly proud of are the COVID murals throughout the state, but I have participated in putting together many multicultural programs for and with the state and during my time at Fenton Communications. Fenton is the preeminent progressive communications agency in the country, focused on promoting diversity and inclusion through its work and subsequent thought and behavior change. During my time at Fenton I participated in some of the most forward thinking multicultural strategies for communication and implementation in the country. My clients included Amnesty International, Climate Action League, WK Kellogg Foundation, Irvine Foundation, Annie E Casey Foundation, Santa Barbara Foundation, Chef Ann Foundation, State of California and more. Although most of my time was spent on strategic communication, this comes with a great deal of art work, from digital graphic design to printed materials, murals all the way to billboards. In each on of our campaigns we looked at how to best spend dollars in a responsible and culturally competent way when producing artwork. It is of paramount importance to have first-person experience when representing a community, and I believe we did this work extremely well.

Q16

Please share any other relevant work experience, volunteer work, community activities or memberships:

Please see above.

Q17

How did you hear about this opportunity?

City Website

#23

[redacted]

Page 1

Q1

Full Name:

Brian Ross

Q2

Indicate the name of the Commission you are interested in serving on:

Arts Commission (Complete Questions 9-17 on the NextPage)

Q3

Indicate why you wish to serve on this Commission. Provide any experience or qualifications you may possess that you think would be beneficial to this Commission. A resume (optional) may be attached.

I'm involved in the Arts and would love the opportunity to promote the Arts in Costa Mesa. I'm proud to have lived in The City of the Arts all my life.

Q4

As a Commission member, what ideas or projects are of interest to you?

More opportunities for children to be exposed to different forms of art, teaching art in schools, more promotion of Costa Mesa as "City of the Arts".

Q5

Optional Resume:

Brian%20Ross%20Resume.pdf (89.6KB)

Q6

Contact Information:Note: This contact information will not be posted on the City's website or distributed to the public. However, this information is still subject to release pursuant to the California Public Records Act. Once appointed, Commission members must complete an Oath of Allegiance, administered by the City Clerk, required by Article XX, Section 3, of the Constitution of the State of California.

Name:	**Brian Ross**
Address:	[redacted]
City/Town:	
ZIP/Postal Code:	
Email Address:	
Phone (cell):	

Q7

Signature Required:

By checking this box and typing my name below, I am electronically signing my application.

Q8

Full Name:

Brian Ross

Page 2: QUESTIONS FOR ARTS COMMISSION APPLICANTS ONLY

Q9

Current or Most Recent Employer:

Laguna Art Museum

Q10

Current or Most Recent Job Title:

Registrar and Collections Manager

Q11

Key Accomplishments:

Founded an art installation, handling and storage business

Q12

Please share your background and experience or knowledge of the arts (visual and performing), arts education, arts administration and community outreach/engagement:

I appreciate the work being done by ArtsOC and I am a long -time member and Board Member of the Historical Collections Council of California Art, long time lover of theater and all genres of music, supporter of the CDM Baroque Music Festival, worked with all Orange County museums, including Heroes Hall.

Q13

Why are you applying to be an Arts Commissioner for the City of Costa Mesa?

I would like the opportunity to ensure continued access to the arts to the least exposed populations, and to work to bring the top national and international acts to Costa Mesa.

Q14

Please share your vision for the arts in Costa Mesa:

I like to solve problems. While great work has been done, I will expand on those efforts but also address issues that come up or have lingered for too long. There are already great opportunities for people to experience the arts, but many don't know it. We need to have strong community outreach and marketing programs.

Q15

Please share your experience in producing and/or participating in Arts and multicultural programing:

I've enjoyed Shakespeare with a Vietnamese influence in Garden Grove, Dia de los Muertos festivities in Los Angeles and I helped to produce an All Female visual arts exhibition at my facility.

Q16

Please share any other relevant work experience, volunteer work, community activities or memberships:

Installed student art program at John Wayne Airport

Q17

How did you hear about this opportunity?

My friend sent me the link.

Brian Ross

Costa Mesa, CA
Contact information available upon request

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Laguna Art Museum **August 2024- Present**
Registrar and Collections Manager

Orange County Fine Art Storage, Anaheim **2009-May, 2024**
Business Owner

- Designed art storage space, organized and managed the placement of art in storage, risk management, documentation, registration and inventory, database management, managed bi-annual inventory audits, condition reporting, hiring and training of art handlers, building security, temperature and humidity monitoring, facility management, banking, customer service, billing, insurance, equipment and vehicle maintenance. pest management
- Business development through art related activities, museum and gallery exhibition openings, Laguna Beach Chamber of Commerce
- Assisted with curating and installing on-site art exhibits in gallery space
- Worked with conservators, appraisers, photographers, framers, shippers and art organizations such as Watercolor West and Colored Pencil Society of America

Lehman Brothers, Irvine **2003-2008**
Vice President, Secondary Marketing Manager

- Created pools of loans totaling $2 billion per month, managed sale transactions
- Data management, compiled and validated aggregated loan data, reported data to management, coordinated legal documents

PROJECTS & EXTRACURRICULAR

ArtsOC Member **2010 to present**

Historical Collections Council of California Art

- Board Member for non-profit art association, facilitates tours of private art collections, events

Publishing **2012 to present**

- Proofreading, layout and printing of ancestor histories

SKILLS

Computer Software: Microsoft Office, Teams, Art Cloud, Zoom, Adobe Illustrator, Gallery Systems Collection Management

EDUCATION

Santa Ana College, General Education **1984**

Irvine Valley College, Art Collection Management **2011**

#30

[redacted]

Page 1

Q1

Full Name:

Neo Moreno

Q2

Indicate the name of the Commission you are interested in serving on:

Arts Commission (Complete Questions 9-17 on the NextPage)

,

Planning Commission

Q3

Indicate why you wish to serve on this Commission. Provide any experience or qualifications you may possess that you think would be beneficial to this Commission. A resume (optional) may be attached.

I want to promote walkable and human-centric city planning. I am a vocal advocate for public transit, walkable communities, and lessening reliance on car-centric infrastructure. I do not have any formal education or experience, but I am determined to speak up on behalf of those who can not or choose not to drive.

Q4

As a Commission member, what ideas or projects are of interest to you?

I have a vested interest in the Let’s Go Costa Mesa project, as that is my full-time job.

Q5

Optional Resume:

Respondent skipped this question

Q6

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Name:	**Neo Moreno**
Address:	[redacted]
City/Town:	
ZIP/Postal Code:	
Email Address:	
Phone (cell):	

Q7

Signature Required:

By checking this box and typing my name below, I am electronically signing my application.

Q8

Full Name:

Neo Moreno

Page 2: QUESTIONS FOR ARTS COMMISSION APPLICANTS ONLY

Q9

Current or Most Recent Employer:

Circuit Transit, Inc.

Q10

Current or Most Recent Job Title:

Driver Ambassador

Q11

Key Accomplishments:

Promoted and successfully increased ridership for the Let’s Go Costa Mesa project. Composed the “Combat Soundtrack” for Moonshadows, an indie game in development by Bagged Tacos LLC.

Q12

Please share your background and experience or knowledge of the arts (visual and performing), arts education, arts administration and community outreach/engagement:

I've been performing and writing music for almost a decade. In that time I've learned strategies to use art as a method to communicate core values, build confidence and promote empathy and compassion within communities.

Q13

Why are you applying to be an Arts Commissioner for the City of Costa Mesa?

I care about art deeply, as it has always been a source of comfort for me. I believe the world needs more art, and thus, more support for artists.

Q14

Please share your vision for the arts in Costa Mesa:

There should be a place in Costa Mesa where creatives can go to simply exist and create in a space that feels comfortable and inspiring. Live music events could be held on one of Costa Mesa's many park greens. Art showcases could highlight local talents while also raising funds for new projects.

Q15

Please share your experience in producing and/or participating in Arts and multicultural programing:

I have no formal education or experience, but I am naturally creative, and I believe that "outside the box" mindset could introduce new angles or concepts that may not have been considered. In past endeavors, I have participated in organizing small, local music shows, bringing different communities together to appreciate a common interest.

Q16

Please share any other relevant work experience, volunteer work, community activities or memberships:

During high school I served on my local library's "Teen Advisory Board", a planning committee that organized events and projects for youth communitites in the area.

Q17

How did you hear about this opportunity?

Matt, the social media guy.

#32

[redacted]

Page 1

Q1

Full Name:

Debora Wondercheck

Q2

Indicate the name of the Commission you are interested in serving on:

Arts Commission (Complete Questions 9-17 on the NextPage)

Q3

Indicate why you wish to serve on this Commission. Provide any experience or qualifications you may possess that you think would be beneficial to this Commission. A resume (optional) may be attached.

wish to serve on this Commission because I am deeply committed to fostering vibrant, equitable communities where the arts are accessible to all. As a passionate advocate for arts education and its transformative power, I believe my expertise and dedication can contribute significantly to the Commission's mission of enriching our community through cultural initiatives.

I bring over 28 years of experience in arts leadership, nonprofit management, and arts education. As the Founder and CEO of the Arts & Learning Conservatory, I lead an organization that serves over 4,000 students annually, providing high-quality arts programs across musical theatre, instrumental music, dance, and voice. My work emphasizes accessibility and equity, ensuring children from all backgrounds have opportunities to engage with the arts.

Additionally, I am a professor of string pedagogy, a cellist, and an orchestral conductor, with hands-on experience in developing and managing innovative county-wide arts concerts like Symphonic Soul and Gospel Voices of OC. These initiatives highlight the role of arts in bridging cultural divides and celebrating diverse contributions.

Currently serving as the Board Chair and Arts Commissioner for the City of Costa Mesa, I have firsthand experience in municipal arts governance and policymaking. I also have a strong background in fundraising, strategic planning, and community engagement, which are essential skills for driving impactful programs and initiatives.

Through this Commission, I aim to leverage my knowledge, experience, and network to advocate for inclusive arts policies, secure resources for underrepresented communities, and champion the arts as a vital element of education, cultural identity, and community well-being.

Q4

As a Commission member, what ideas or projects are of interest to you?

As a Commission member, I am passionate about engaging youth through creative opportunities, celebrating diversity, and public art engagement.

Key initiatives I'm interested in include:

Youth Arts Accessibility: Creating arts programs for children and teens, in all of our community, especially for those with limited access to programming.
Cultural Heritage Events: Showcasing diverse cultural contributions through festivals, concerts, and public art installations.
Performing Arts Collaborations: Partnering with businesses to provide performing arts opportunities involving youth and community musicians. Mentorship Programs: Connecting experienced professionals with emerging talent to inspire future arts leaders.

Q5

Optional Resume:

Bio-%20Debora%202024.docx (13.8KB)

Q6

Contact Information:Note: This contact information will not be posted on the City's website or distributed to the public. However, this information is still subject to release pursuant to the California Public Records Act. Once appointed, Commission members must complete an Oath of Allegiance, administered by the City Clerk, required by Article XX, Section 3, of the Constitution of the State of California.

Name:	**Debora Wondercheck**
Address:	[redacted]
City/Town:	
ZIP/Postal Code:	
Email Address:	
Phone (cell):	

Q7

Signature Required:

By checking this box and typing my name below, I am electronically signing my application.

Q8

Full Name:

Debora Wondercheck

Page 2: QUESTIONS FOR ARTS COMMISSION APPLICANTS ONLY

Q9

Current or Most Recent Employer:

Arts & Learning Conservatory

Q10

Current or Most Recent Job Title:

Founder CEO

Q11

Key Accomplishments:

see bio

Q12

Please share your background and experience or knowledge of the arts (visual and performing), arts education, arts administration and community outreach/engagement:

see bio

Q13

Why are you applying to be an Arts Commissioner for the City of Costa Mesa?

I wish to serve on this Commission because I am deeply committed to fostering vibrant, equitable communities where the arts are accessible to all. As a passionate advocate for arts education and its transformative power, I believe my expertise and dedication can contribute significantly to the Commission's mission of enriching our community through cultural initiatives.

Q14

Please share your vision for the arts in Costa Mesa:

As a former NMUSD teacher and Director of Music for the Waldorf School of Orange County, I have a deep-rooted commitment to the City of Costa Mesa and its proud slogan, "City of the Arts." My vision is to see this identity fully realized by creating vibrant pathways for our youth, who represent the future of our community. By investing in arts opportunities that inspire, educate, and empower the next generation, we can ensure that Costa Mesa not only embraces its artistic heritage but also becomes a beacon of creativity and innovation for years to come.

Q15

Please share your experience in producing and/or participating in Arts and multicultural programing:

see bio

Q16

Please share any other relevant work experience, volunteer work, community activities or memberships:

see bio

Q17

How did you hear about this opportunity?

John Stephens

Bio- Debora Wondercheck

Debora Wondercheck epitomizes the essence of leadership fused with an unwavering commitment to social impact and equality. With nearly three decades of dedicated service in education program implementation and arts advocacy, Debora stands as a beacon of inspiration in the corporate realm.

Currently serving as the esteemed founder and CEO of the Arts & Learning Conservatory, Debora's visionary leadership has propelled the organization to the forefront of culturally inclusive artistic training and education for thousands of children across Southern California. Her profound belief in nurturing and empowering the next generation resonates deeply, as she champions the ongoing healing and advancement of youth and marginalized communities through the transformative power of the arts.

In addition to her role at the Arts & Learning Conservatory, Debora wears many hats with grace and distinction. As a professor of string pedagogy, a talented cellist, and an accomplished orchestral conductor, her multifaceted expertise enriches every facet of her work. Notably, she is the creative force behind county-wide productions such as "Gospel Voices of OC" and "Music of the March," which pay homage to the resilience and faith of African American ancestors through artistic expression.

Debora's influence extends far beyond the stage. In 2024, she was voted Board Chair as Arts Commissioner for the City of Costa Mesa and honored as She Leads California's Woman of Distinction. LA Times Woman Visionary, and was winner of the prestigious international Stevie Award. In 2023, she was named one of the 125 most influential individuals in Orange County, CA. Her visionary leadership has earned accolades from esteemed publications such as the LA Times, which hailed her as a Visionary Leader, and Forbes Magazine, where she contributes as a writer. Actively engaged in her community, Debora serves on the boards of distinguished organizations, including the Board of Trustees of Vanguard University, Arts Orange County, Culture OC, OneOC, and the Institute of Leadership.

Her impact on the cultural landscape is further underscored by her role as Commissioner of the Arts, serving as Chairperson for the city of Costa Mesa. Debora's contributions have been celebrated through prestigious awards, including Woman of the Year by the city of Costa Mesa and Woman of Distinction by the California State Assembly and Senate in 2022.

Under Debora's inspired guidance, the Arts & Learning Conservatory has garnered numerous accolades, including Orange County's Outstanding Arts Organization of the Year award and the National Youth Arts Award for Best Youth Production in Southern California. These honors stand as testament to Debora's unwavering dedication to excellence and her profound impact on the community.

Through her tireless efforts, Debora Wondercheck continues to inspire others to reach for the highest standards of inclusivity and equity, driving toward a more vibrant and harmonious society for all.