



ALAMEDA COUNTY
AUDITOR-CONTROLLER AGENCY
MELISSA WILK
 AUDITOR-CONTROLLER/CLERK-RECORDER

September 17, 2024

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
 County Administration Building
 1221 Oak Street
 Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Board Members:

**SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE COMMENDATION OF SIX RECIPIENTS OF THE
 2024 ALAMEDA COUNTY ARTS LEADERSHIP AWARDS**

RECOMMENDATION:

Authorize the commendation of the following six recipients of the 2024 Alameda County Arts Leadership Awards for their achievements and contributions impacting the arts community and residents of Alameda County:

- A. Judy Anglin (Representing District 1);
- B. Dmitry Grudsky (Representing District 2);
- C. Lani Llamido (Representing District 2);
- D. Lorrie Murray (Representing District 3);
- E. Paul Keim (Representing District 4); and
- F. Graham Lustig (Representing District 5);

DISCUSSION/SUMMARY:

The annual Arts Leadership Awards Program is an opportunity for the County to recognize individuals for their achievements and contributions impacting the arts community and residents of Alameda County. This annual program began in 2003 and was formalized in 2006 with an annual recognition by the Alameda County Board of Supervisors commending the individuals during a public meeting in conjunction with National Arts and Humanities Month of October. The program has continued with a strong emphasis on public awareness and participation. With the addition of the six award recipients of 2024, this program has now given awards to 120 arts leaders throughout our Alameda County community.

The Office of the Arts Commission received a total of 16 Arts Leadership Award nominations from the public by the deadline of June 12, 2024. The Arts Commissioners reviewed the nominations and selected the award recipients at their regular public meeting on July 10, 2024. The goal is to select one individual or team as the award recipient to represent each of the five

districts of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors. This year, there was a tie-vote for the nominees in District 2. Therefore, there is a total of six award recipients. The 2024 award recipients are:

Supervisory District 1 Award Recipient: Judy Anglin

Judy Anglin is a long-time Board Member and dedicated Volunteer of the Olive Hyde Art Guild which was founded in 1972. Judy has been a cornerstone of the Olive Hyde Art Guild, championing its mission to support the City of Fremont's Olive Hyde Art Gallery and promoting the visual arts within schools and throughout the Fremont community. For over 40 years, Judy has been an active volunteer and has held numerous positions on the Board of Directors, including three years as the Board President. Currently, Judy leads a talented team in orchestrating the Guild's annual holiday fundraiser which is now in its 40th year. Judy also plays a vital role in fundraising by securing sponsors, grant support, and donations. She collaborates on the annual Serra Center Art Workshop for developmentally disabled adults, and leads the Guild's bi-annual Members Juried Show. A talented watercolor artist herself, Judy takes particular pride in the Guild's efforts to provide art supplies, awards, and books to underserved children, youth, and seniors, enriching their lives through the power of art. Judy's unwavering commitment ensures the successful continuation of this important organization and the appreciation for the visual arts. Judy Anglin is a resident of Fremont.

Supervisory District 2 Award Recipient: Dmitry Grudsky

Dmitry Grudsky is a Newark Visual Artist, Art Instructor and Community Volunteer working with many local groups and arts organizations in Alameda County. Dmitry specializes in watercolor painting and mosaic art. He has created an extensive number of mosaic tile public artworks for public schools, organizations and community spaces in Hayward, Fremont, Livermore, Berkeley and more. In addition to his community public art projects, he is also an art instructor who conducts classes, workshops, and demonstrations at many arts and education organizations throughout this region. Dmitry exhibits his paintings locally, nationally and internationally. As the result of his extensive career, he received signature member status at several prestigious art associations including the Society of West Coast Artists, Northwest Watercolor Society, and California Watercolor Society. A resident of the Bay Area for over 30 years, Dmitry's local landscapes remind him of his native Uzbekistan. Dmitry is inspired by discovering new places, experiencing and observing nature, and meeting new people. He continues to develop new ways to share his art and to encourage others to make art with the goal of positive change in our community. Dmitry Grudsky is a resident of Newark.

Supervisory District 2 Award Recipient: Lani Llamido

Lani Llamido is a Board Member of the Hayward Arts Council, an Advocate for the Hayward Literacy Plus Council, and Lead Coordinator for the Asian and Pacific Islander Community Initiative of the Hayward Unified School District (HUSD). Lani's work with the Hayward Arts Council includes the founding and coordination of the organization's international online exhibition program. She also volunteers at exhibitions and events and conducts fundraising initiatives with a focus on supporting family art classes and activities. Her decade-long commitment to the Hayward Literacy Plus Council has been instrumental in creating impactful

newsletters and launching the organization's website in 2023. She was instrumental in the creation of HUSD's Asian Pacific Islander Community Initiative and the Filipino-American Students Coalition. Her goal is to support and serve Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander students and families. As a certified Human Rights Consultant, Lani advocates for underserved immigrant communities, guiding them through the complex justice system and ensuring access to immigration and special education services. Empowering change through literacy, arts, and education, Lani Llamido is a dedicated and passionate community leader and organizer. Lani Llamido is a resident of Hayward.

Supervisory District 3 Award Recipient: Lorrie Murray

Lorrie Murray is the Founder and Executive Director for the Bay Area Music Project (BAMP) in the City of Alameda. BAMP was founded in 2014 and is a nonprofit organization focused on enriching the lives of children and families in under-resourced communities through accessible and transformative music education. The organization began as a small choir class at a single site and developed into a full orchestra, vocal and electronic music program providing programs across five sites and serving over 250 children each year. Before founding BAMP, Lorrie was a key member of the design team at Maya Lin School in the City of Alameda. The school is recognized for its innovative arts-integrated curriculum, emphasizing the creative process as central to learning. Lorrie's professional journey includes 25 years in the music industry, where she excelled as a concert promoter, tour manager, and stage performer. Her deep involvement in the Bay Area music scene revealed to her the profound impact of music and art in uniting and uplifting communities. She is a dedicated advocate for arts education, passionately committed to using music as a catalyst for social change. Lorrie Murray is a resident of the City of Alameda.

Supervisory District 4 Award Recipient: Paul Keim

Paul Keim is the Founder and Director of Smalltown Society in Castro Valley. As a dedicated songwriter, and community organizer, in 2016 Paul founded Smalltown Society, a nonprofit arts organization in Castro Valley. In this role, Paul has curated over 500 events that provide vital opportunities for local artists, musicians, and filmmakers to connect and thrive. With a passion for justice and social change, he has cultivated a vibrant arts community focused on equity, inclusion and inspiration. Smalltown Society is a hub for creativity and community, offering opportunities for artistic expression, collaboration, and social engagement. Under Paul's leadership, Smalltown has empowered individuals from diverse backgrounds, revitalized essential community spaces like Castro Valley's Chabot Theater, led civic initiatives that connect artistic expression with social change, and secured substantial funding to sustain these efforts. Paul has also worked in collaboration with the Castro Valley/Eden Area Chamber of Commerce, Castro Valley High School, League of Women Voters, and others to bring arts engagement activities to the community. His commitment has made Smalltown Society a cornerstone of social and artistic life in Alameda County's unincorporated area. Paul Keim is a resident of Castro Valley.

Supervisory District 5 Award Recipient: Graham Lustig

Graham Lustig is the Artistic Director of the Oakland Ballet Company (OBC) which was founded in 1965. Graham has led the organization since 2010 and believes it is essential that the

diversity of Oakland and Alameda County is reflected in all of its activities. Graham has created groundbreaking programs for the OBC including *Dancing Moons Festival*, America's first AAPI artist showcase, *Luna Mexicana* – a Dia de los Muertos celebration, and *Rainbow Dances* – an LGBTQ showcase. These programs celebrate our diversity and challenge concepts of how a ballet-based dance organization can more authentically serve its community. Graham has choreographed over 90 original ballets and operas, and commissioned over 100 new dance works in a series of wide-ranging collaborations. He has coached and inspired a generation of new dance artists. Through his robust enrichment programs, young students have assured access to the arts at no cost. An arts advocate, Graham is a founding member of the Artists Committee for Americans for the Arts and served as panelist for the National Endowment for the Arts Dance and Policy Panel. Throughout his career, Graham has redefined ballet as a dynamic and inclusive art form. Graham Lustig resides in Oakland.

SELECTION CRITERIA/PROCESS:

From February 1 to June 12, 2024, the Alameda County Arts Commission staff promoted the Arts Leadership Awards Program. Information about the program, the nomination process, and nomination instructions were widely distributed. Information was shared with the members of the Alameda County Board of Supervisors to help enable outreach to the five supervisorial districts. A press release was sent to local press contacts. Information was shared through the Arts Commission's e-newsletter that was sent to over 2,200 Alameda County arts organizations and arts supporters. Additionally, nomination information was provided to Arts Commissioners, and an email announcement was sent to Arts Commission contacts including Alameda County Public Art Advisory Committee members and community members. Program information and the nomination instructions were also posted on the Arts Commission website.

Nominees must be a resident of Alameda County involved in any arts discipline including, but not limited to, music, dance, visual arts, literature, theater, film and video, traditional crafts and folk arts, and new media. Nominees may participate in a wide range of activities with Alameda County-based arts organization(s) such as an artist, staff or board member, volunteer, donor, supporter, advocate, etc. This award is open to all individuals, including youth, who live in Alameda County regardless of race, color, national origin, physical challenge, religious or political affiliations. Additionally, two individuals may be nominated together if their efforts during the last two years or more are through a business partnership and the individuals meet the other criteria established. Current members of the Board of Supervisors, elected officials, the Alameda County Arts Commissioners, and Public Art Advisory Committee Members, as well as individuals who have received a past Arts Leadership Award are ineligible.

Of the 16 nominations received, six award recipients were selected by the members of the Alameda County Arts Commission. The Arts Commission is comprised of 15 community members appointed by the Board of Supervisors and seven ex-officio members representing County Departments and leading educational and cultural institutions. The award nominees were evaluated on their major achievements impacting the arts community and residents of Alameda County, the effect and results of these achievements, and the distinguishing characteristics of the nominees as it related to his/her peers or colleagues. Information about the individuals who submitted the nominations

was omitted during the voting process. A complete set of the nominations were sent to all of the Arts Commissioners in advance of the Alameda County Arts Commission's public meeting on July 10, 2024. At the meeting, the Arts Commissioners selected the 2024 Arts Leadership Award recipients and recommended they receive commendations from the Board of Supervisors.

FINANCING:

Funding for this program is included in the Arts Commission Fiscal Year 2024-2025 budget. No additional appropriations are required, and there will be no increase in net County cost.

VISION 2026 GOALS:

The programs and services of the Alameda County Arts Commission are based on the belief that arts and creativity are essential to every successful and thriving community. This Arts Leadership Awards Program supports Alameda County's Vision 2026 10x goal pathways of a **Thriving and Resilient Population** and **Prosperous and Vibrant Economy**.

Respectfully submitted,



Melissa Wilk
Auditor-Controller/Clerk-Recorder

c: Susan S. Muranishi, County Administrator
Donna R. Ziegler, County Counsel