

Garcia Center for the Arts

July 25th, 2022

To Whom It May Concern,

From the beginning, the Garcia Center for the Arts was a passion project for the community. The founder and Executive Director, Ernie Garcia, was a volunteer, who at times also donated his own funds and materials to support the vision of creating an arts space in San Bernardino. There was not much revenue to support programming in the early years of the The Garcia Center for the Arts. For this reason, the art grant offered by the City of San Bernardino's Arts & Historical Preservation Commission, was crucial to making the center sustainable early on and ensuring its future. The grant from the City's Art Commission helped fund community oriented art programming at our facility, namely printmaking, ceramics, painting, puppetry for kids, theater performances, and gallery exhibits.

Designating public funds to the arts in San Bernardino is important, since it recognizes the role that art and creativity plays in strengthening and building community.

Since 2015, when the Garcia Center first opened, the center has become a hub to a number of creatives and art organizations in the San Bernardino area, such as the San Bernardino Symphony, Inlandia and Arts Connection, which also serves as the Arts Council of San Bernardino County. It is safe to say, that funding from the City's Art Commission also helped subsidize rent and use of space at the Garcia Center for many of our local artists and arts groups, including the ones just named.

The Center serves hundreds to thousands of people annually. It has gained recognition as a safe, accommodating, and ADA-accessible gathering space for residents of all backgrounds and incomes, including low-income residents and youth living in the surrounding high poverty neighborhoods.

The Garcia Center for the Arts is a vital part of this community and the opportunity to receive funding through the City of San Bernardino's Arts & Historical Preservation Commission is important to our artistry, our future, and our ability to serve this community. Members of our organization, the young people and families we serve, and our audience in general, are people who live in or around San Bernardino, and who are invested to seeing our community improve and thrive.

We appreciate your support of the arts in San Bernardino. We hope the art grant offered by the City's Art Commission continues to be offered for decades to come. Thank you for your ongoing support and interest in the arts. I would welcome an opportunity to have you attend our activities or speak with you about the work being done at The Garcia Center for the Arts.

Sincerely,



Jorge Osvaldo Heredia
Executive Director, Garcia Center for the Arts
(909) 277-4394

Jorge Osvaldo Heredia
Executive Director

Eric Servin
Programs Director

Board of Directors
Juan Delgado,
President

Margaret Worsley,
Secretary

Dr. Anne Viricel,
Treasurer

Board Members
Jonathan Horstmann
Jim Morris
Andrew Hernandez
Lucas Cuny

P: (909) 888-6400
536 W 11th St. San
Bernardino, CA 92410

www.sbvca.org

garciacentersb@gmail.com

Established 2015

FEIN: 95-2159433

