



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

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HAMILTON TO STEP DOWN AFTER 24 YEARS OF SERVICE

San Diego – November 2, 2012 - After twenty-four years as the only executive director of the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture (Commission), Victoria Hamilton will step down at the end of this month. San Diego was a very different place when Hamilton arrived from Santa Barbara in 1988 to head up the newly formed Commission and her impact and influence have reverberated throughout the community. Today, it is a vibrant cultural destination with a fair and transparent funding process that benefits over 120 arts and culture organizations.

“Victoria has changed the way we support the arts in San Diego and has been an innovative force within City government,” said Mayor Jerry Sanders. “She has been a tireless advocate ever since taking the reins of the Commission more than 20 years ago. She has taken funding for diverse arts and culture organizations to a new level.”

Victoria Hamilton has been the executive director of the City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture since its inception. She oversees the city's \$8 million arts and culture program including the design and development of the arts and culture organizational support program, neighborhood arts and festivals programs, public art in public and private development, and technical assistance and services to artists and arts organizations.

Recent accomplishments cap a track record of success achieved through two economic downturns and four mayoral administrations. “I am pleased to end my career with the City on such a high note,” Hamilton said proudly. “With the adoption of the **Penny for the Arts Blueprint** which will more than double arts and culture funding in four years and the unveiling of the National Endowment for the Arts –funded **Art + Design Plan** for the Village at Market Creek , the stage is set for a bright future.”

Hamilton has earned national recognition by forging strategic alliances, empowering volunteer leadership boards, and advancing an entrepreneurial approach to innovative arts and culture programs and partnerships. She has compiled an outstanding record of business model and resource development by successfully building broad bipartisan political coalitions and vigorous stakeholder involvement and commitment.

During her tenure, she oversaw the development of a model **Cultural Tourism Program** in partnership with ConVis, a **Public Art Master Plan** that provided 2% for art in city capital improvement projects and 1% in private development, and developed a **Cultural Diversity Plan**. In addition, she produced an annual **Economic and Community Impact Report** that helped City leaders understand the return on investment of the arts and the intrinsic value of the arts and culture to our community and quality of life.

The awards and accolades have been numerous. In 2009, Americans for the Arts and the NEA presented her with the prestigious **Selina Roberts Ottum Award** – their highest honor - which recognizes the achievements of an individual who has made a meaningful contribution to the arts through local arts leadership. In his presentation, Robert L. Lynch, president and CEO of Americans for the Arts said, “Victoria Hamilton’s dedication, leadership and support for the arts is unwavering. Her valued commitment and vision for the arts in San Diego deserves this recognition.”

“Victoria Hamilton has provided inspired leadership. She has been a catalyst for innumerable initiatives that have enhanced the arts community in many ways. She has worked effectively bringing together arts organizations that have not been known for collaboration thus creating a culture of working together,” said Peter K. Ellsworth, President, The Legler Benbough Foundation.

“Victoria is an effective advocate and promoter of San Diego’s arts and culture,” added Commission Chair Vicki Reed. “I know the 70 Commissioners who have served during her tenure join me in congratulating and thanking Victoria for her leadership, passion, creativity and commitment to our Vibrant Culture/Vibrant City.”

Hamilton will be pursuing opportunities to continue her career in arts and culture in San Diego. Meanwhile, Dana Springs, currently the Commission’s Public Art Program Manager, will be given the temporary assignment of Executive Director beginning in December.

Photo can be found [here](#).

*The mission of the **City of San Diego Commission for Arts and Culture** is to vitalize the city by integrating arts and culture into community life while supporting the region’s cultural assets and showcasing San Diego as an international cultural destination. For more information call (619) 236-6778 or visit www.VibrantCultureVibrantCity.com*

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