



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

**TODD GLORIA**

MAYOR

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 8, 2022

TO: Honorable Council President Sean Elo-Rivera  
Honorable Councilmembers

FROM: Mayor Todd Gloria

SUBJECT: Appointments and Reappointments to the Arts and Culture  
Commission

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I am appointing Abe Hughes (Del Mar), Lee Ann Kim (District 6-Sorrento Valley), Kamaal Martin (Lemon Grove), Alessandra Moctezuma (District 3-South Park), Keith Opstad (District 5-Scripps Ranch), Becky Philpott (District 5-Miramar), Dr. Alberto López Pulido (District 2-Bay Park) to the Arts and Culture Commission. In addition, I am reappointing Dajahn Blevins (District 4-Lomita Village), Ann Bossler (District 3-Normal Heights), Tyler Hewes (Santee) and Udoka Nwanna (District 7-San Carlos) and Rebecca Smith (District 3 – University Heights) to the Board.

Mr. Hughes is the Regional Director for Latin America at Trimble, responsible for the strategic growth and expansion of this global leader in precision agriculture technology. He was the General Manager of the Agriculture Division for Trimble prior to relocating to San Diego and served as Senior Vice President of Business Development for POET, the world's largest producer of ethanol. Mr. Hughes is active in the community and has served as a Board Trustee of the Museum of Contemporary Art of Chicago (MCA), Board Member of Advocate Health Care, a \$4 billion health care leader based in Chicago, and Chairman of the Hispanic Alliance for Career Enhancement (HACE). He holds a Bachelor of Arts in History from Cornell University and a Master of Business Administration from Harvard University. Mr. Hughes is serving a two-year term ending August 31, 2023.

Ms. Kim is a former journalist, entrepreneur, media producer, and storyteller. A longtime advocate for the arts, she is the founding executive director of Pacific Arts Movement, a nonprofit media arts organization best known for its annual San Diego Asian Film Festival, which has grown to become one of the largest festivals of its kind in North America. During her 16-year tenure with

the organization, she helped raise more than \$10 million to grow the organization and produced more than 100 youth documentaries. Ms. Kim received her Bachelor of Arts in Broadcast Journalism with an emphasis in Spanish from the University of Maryland, College Park. Mr. Hughes is serving a two-year term ending August 31, 2023.

Mr. Martin currently works with Catalyst of San Diego & Imperial Counties as Vice-President of Networks and Initiatives. Prior to founding San Diego-based social enterprise and consulting firm, Art Power Equity, he developed a unique skill set and network through professional experiences including Director of Advocacy (Southern California) with the California Charter School Association, Adjunct Faculty (Political Science) in the San Diego Community College District, Government Relations Specialist with the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority and years as a staffer in the California State Assembly. Mr. Martin's passions are arts and culture, community development, finance, improving our local food system, and raising the quality of life throughout the San Diego/Tijuana region. A graduate of the University of Oregon, with a B.A. in History and an M.A. in International Studies, he's served on the boards/advisory groups of numerous community organizations including Project New Village 501(c3) and Somali Youth United 501(c3). He is a former chair of the NAACP San Diego's Political Action Committee. Mr. Martin is serving a two-year term ending August 31, 2023.

Ms. Moctezuma is a Professor of Art and Gallery Director at San Diego Mesa College, where she leads the Museum/Gallery Studies program and teaches Chicano Art. She earned Bachelor of Art and Master of Fine Arts degrees from UCLA and also ABD for a Ph.D. in Hispanic Languages and Literature at the State University in New York, Stony Brook. Ms. Moctezuma is on the board of the Museum of Contemporary Art, San Diego, the Women's Museum of California, Medium Photography, and Friends of the Villa Montezuma. She serves in advisory committees for the Institute of Contemporary Art San Diego, the San Diego Museum of Art's Latin American Arts Council, the Oceanside Museum of Art, and the Centro Cultural de la Raza. In past years she has served in the San Diego Foundation Creative Catalyst committee and the City of San Diego Public Arts Committee. Ms. Moctezuma is serving a two-year term ending August 31, 2023.

Mr. Opstad is an award-winning artist, art educator, and two-time teacher of the year. He graduated from Poway High School, earned his bachelor's degree and single subject teaching credential in Art Education at California State University, Long Beach, and a master's degree from George Washington University in Educational Technology Leadership. He is a lifelong supporter of the visual and performing arts and has 27 years of teaching experience in the Poway Unified School District where he is currently teaching Drawing and Painting and Advance Placement Studio Art at Westview High School while

serving as a department chairperson. Mr. Opstad is serving a two-year term ending August 31, 2023.

Ms. Philpott has designed and directed targeted youth intervention programs, including Check & Connect Pathways Opportunity Youth –an Aspen Institute Forum for Community Solutions initiative, the Check & Connect High School Persistence Research Implementation Study conducted by the American Institutes for Research, and other locally developed attendance and school engagement programs for the San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD). Through these programs, Ms. Philpott partnered with many community organizations to serve youth including the San Diego Workforce Partnership and the Urban League of San Diego County. She has more than 30 years of experience in education policy analysis, public education advocacy, and program development. As an arts “enthusiast” Becky and her husband support many San Diego programs at all levels, school-based and professional, particularly in the area of youth involvement and professional music and performing arts. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science, from San Diego State University, and a Certificate in Community Research and Program Evaluation from the University of California San Diego, Extension. She currently serves on the boards of Harmonium, Youth Will, and the San Diego State University Alumni Association- Bay Area Regional Council (BARC). Ms. Philpott is serving a two-year term ending August 31, 2023.

Dr. Pulido is the founding chair of the Department of Ethnic Studies and has been on the faculty at the University of San Diego since 2003. He grew up in the South Bay and lived a life between borders and Fronteras that highly influenced his fronterizo ways of understanding the world. He received degrees in Sociology and Chicano Studies from the University of California, San Diego, and represents one of fifty-seven students who would graduate from the Mexican American Graduate Studies Program at Notre. Dr. Pulido aligned himself with several community organizations and guides and none more important than the Chicano Park Steering Committee who serve as the stewards of Chicano Park in San Diego, California. He learned a great deal about community organizing through collective struggle and self-determination which inspired him to direct and co-produce an award-winning documentary on the history and value of lowriding as a cultural expression in the borderlands of San Diego and Tijuana. Dr. Pulido continues his scholarly commitment to relevant education rooted in a community epistemology that guides his work as Director of the Turning Wheel Mobile Classroom Project which provides a mobile space for supporting the urgent needs and challenges of our local communities. The Turning Wheel Project represents a partnership between the University of San Diego and the Chicano Park Museum and Cultural Center. Pulido serves as Vice-Chair of the museum’s advisory board. Dr. Pulido is serving a two-year term ending August 31, 2023.

Mr. Blevins is a Behavior Modification Specialist using the arts, culture, and creative nontraditional interventions to help bring about change. His battle cry is Kujichagulia meaning Self Determination and his tool is his creativity, love, and passion that outweighs the doubt and self-hate encountered in his work to instigate change. His program is based on using art to be engineers for change. Mr. Blevins is a graduate of Texas College where he earned his B.S. in Social Sciences. He continued his education at San Diego State University in Sociology and Performing Arts. He created the B.L.A.C.K Club (believers in altruism culture & kinship) and established Urban Warriors Inc declaring war on negative vibration and low-level energy. His program A Challenge to Change AC2C provided prevention, intervention and ongoing support. As a Community Health Educator and San Diego City School Outreach Worker he incorporated education, health, social skills, culture and entertainment [Edu-tainment] programs like Shule Ya Basura na Umoja (School of Foresight and Unity) Freedom Schools, Project ENABL (Education Now & Babies Later) Champions for Change healthy active fit project and the UPAKA Urban Performing and Kreative Arts center to name a few. In the evening, he is an Aubrey award-winning actor, singer-dancer, director, and playwright who has graced the stages of many theaters in San Diego. He is the creator of the DABADOYA international youth entrepreneur mentoring project and the Kuumba Fest San Diego's longest-running arts and culture celebration of its kind. Mr. Blevins is serving a two-year term ending August 31, 2022.

Ms. Bossler is the Director of Program Development for Price Philanthropies, an organization championing underserved youth and revitalizing the City Heights community. She is a grants officer for education and arts and culture within San Diego and oversees the implementation of multiple educational programs which benefit local Title I students. Bossler previously facilitated the leadership development of Fortune 500 corporate clients at The Center for Creative Leadership and was the executive director of the Coronado Response Group, a community program that fostered cooperation between the city, school district, and community. She received her business degree from Emory University, her counseling credential/degree from the University of San Diego, and her Ed.M. in administration, planning, and social policy from Harvard University. Ms. Bossler is serving a two-year term ending August 31, 2023.

Mr. Hewes is a Financial Advisor with Christopher Weil & Company, Inc. with a specific focus on Retirement Planning. Having worked in the nonprofit world of classical music for over a decade, Mr. Hewes moved to Christopher Weil & Company, Inc. in 2013. He is a Registered Investment Advisor Representative and is a CERTIFIED FINANCIAL PLANNER™ professional (“CFP®”) and received an Executive Financial Planner Advanced Certificate

from San Diego State University's College of Business Administration and earned his B.A. in Theatre from Eastern Connecticut State University in 2002. After graduating he moved to San Diego to pursue a life in the performing arts, embracing Horace Greeley's proclamation to "Go West, young man, go West!" From 2003 to 2008 he served as Production Manager for Mainly Mozart. From late 2007 to late 2010 he was executive director of the San Diego Chamber Orchestra, later returning to Mainly Mozart in January 2011 as associate director. Mr. Hewes is a graduate of the Fieldstone Foundation's Executive Learning Group, the San Diego Leadership Alliance, and the Fund Raising School at the Lilly School of Philanthropy at Indiana University (Certificate in Fund Raising Management), and the Equinox Center's BoardNEXT program. He is active in the arts as a supporter, as well as an occasional actor, director, and playwright. Mr. Hewes is serving a two-year term ending August 31, 2023.

Ms. Nwanna is currently a professor of law at Abraham Lincoln University Law School. Before joining the faculty at Abraham Lincoln, she held faculty teaching positions at Southwestern Law School, Western State College of Law, as well as taught at San Diego Law School at Alliant International University, California Western School of Law, Thomas Jefferson School of Law, and University of San Diego School of Law. Her teaching has specialized in a range of courses including criminal law, business associations, legal writing, bar exam preparation, civil litigation skills, and academic success support. Ms. Nwanna received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Emory University and her Juris Doctor degree from California Western, with a concentration in Criminal Prosecution and Defense Practice. She is an active member of her local community, currently serving on the boards of the ACLU of San Diego & Imperial Counties and Pro Kids First Tee of San Diego, as well as previously served on the boards of the California Ballet and Culture Shock San Diego. Ms. Nwanna is serving a two-year term ending August 31, 2023.

Ms. Smith is the Executive Director of The Offices of Strengths & Vocation at Point Loma Nazarene University. Previously, she was Senior Recruiter at Eastridge Workforce Solutions, Vice President at the San Diego Workforce Partnership, and Career Coach at QUALCOMM, also holding related positions over the past 20 years with the University of San Diego, the San Diego Regional Chamber of Commerce and High Tech High. Her experience includes hosting the Public Broadcasting Service series "Career Advantage." She earned an M.Ed in Counseling from the University of San Diego and a B.A. in Sociology from the University of California, San Diego. Smith serves on the Board of Directors of the United Way of San Diego County. Ms. Smith is serving a two-year term ending August 31, 2023.

I thank them for their willingness to serve in this capacity.

MTG:cwd

cc: Honorable Mara Elliott, City Attorney  
Elizabeth Maland, City Clerk  
Charles Modica, Independent Budget Analyst