POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO
THOMAS J. CAHILL HALL OF JUSTICE
850 BRYANT STREET
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94103-4603

EDWIN M. LEE
MAYOR

GREGORY P. SUHR
CHIEF OF POLICE

September 25, 2012

The Honorable Katherine Feinstein
Presiding Judge
Superior Court of California
County of San Francisco
400 McAllister Street, Room 008
San Francisco, CA 94102-4512

Dear Judge Feinstein:

I am pleased to offer the San Francisco Police Department's (SFPD) response to the 2011-2012 Civil Grand Jury report entitled "Where There's Smoke...The Need to Strengthen the Art Commission's Stewardship of San Francisco's Cultural Legacy." The SFPD's response to the report's findings and recommendations are set forth in the accompanying attachment.

The SFPD appreciates the work done by the Civil Grand Jury as it relates to the City's cultural commitment. The SFPD's main priority is to ensure the safety of our community, and we look forward to working in partnership with the San Francisco Arts Commission and the many Cultural Centers to implement the recommendations put forth in this report.

I thank the 2011-2012 Civil Grand Jury for its efforts in improving San Francisco government, the public's safety, technology, and the overall quality of life in our city, and I am grateful for the opportunity for the SFPD to participate in these initiatives.

Sincerely,

GREGORY P. SUHR
Chief of Police

/cf
Attachment
c: Mario Choi, Foreperson Pro Tem, Civil Grand Jury
Government Audit Clerk, Office of the Clerk of the Board

SAN FRANCISCO POLICE DEPARTMENT
RESPONSE TO THE CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT
"Where There's Smoke...The Need to Strengthen the Art Commission's Stewardship of San Francisco's Cultural Legacy"

September 25, 2012

III. Neighborhood Cultural Centers

B. Recommendations

R15. SFAC hold public hearings about the Cultural Centers and their short- and long-term funding (for programs and facility maintenance), facility, and safety needs to develop an action plan to secure the Cultural Centers.

Response: Agree. The San Francisco Police Department will work the SFAC and with local Cultural Centers to ensure the security of those using these centers, as well as the individual facilities, buildings, and surrounding areas. By working in collaboration with stakeholders, the SFPD will take an active participative role in developing an action plan to address crime and violence issues in-and-around all Cultural Centers. Concentrated efforts will be made to those centers situated in high-crime areas such as the Bayview Opera House through the use a variety of methods and resources, including but not limited to:

- Foot patrols in immediate area whenever possible.
- Officer interaction with community members as community partners (reading programs, mentoring, seasonal events and celebrations, etc.).
- Coordination with Cultural Centers for increased security for scheduled events.
- Deployment of regularly assigned officers to community assignments. This will establish key community partnerships by having the same officers assigned to the areas each and every day.
- The assignment of district station captain as the primary point of contact for cultural center directors.

CIVIL GRAND JURY REPORT

Pertinent to SFPD Section III: Neighborhood Cultural Centers

R11. Designate Hotel Tax Funds from the initial $1 million for the development of educational print, on-line and phone app materials to showcase the existing Civic Art Collection located in the City, at San Francisco International Airport, and at other City properties to make the Collection more accessible to City residents and visitors.

Responses are requested from the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, the City Administrator, the Controller, the Arts Commission, and the Director of Cultural Affairs.

R12. Designate Hotel Tax Fund monies of 1% of the value of the Collection (up to $900,000) on an annual basis for the maintenance and care of the Collection.

Responses are requested from the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, the City Administrator, the Controller, the Arts Commission, and the Director of Cultural Affairs.

R13. Clarify ownership and maintenance responsibilities for art and statuary on Rec & Park property.

Responses are requested from the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, City Attorney, the Arts Commission, the Director of Cultural Affairs, the Director of Recreation and Park, and the Recreation and Park Commission.

R14. Complete a SFAC - Rec & Park agreement to ensure compensation for maintenance of art in the City's parks is adequate to support that task and does not impair conservation and maintenance elsewhere.

Responses are requested from the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, City Attorney, the Arts Commission, the Director of Cultural Affairs, the Director of Recreation and Park, and the Recreation and Park Commission.

III. Neighborhood Cultural Centers

In 1967, San Francisco became the first municipality in the nation to establish a Neighborhood Arts Program. Within SFAC, Community Arts and Education (CAE) supports the City's four neighborhood and two virtual cultural centers in furthering cultural and community revitalization and development through grants to non-profit organizations. Currently, the brick-and-mortar neighborhood centers, located in underserved communities, include the African American Art and Cultural Complex (in the Western Addition), the Bayview Opera House, the Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts, and SOMArts. The virtual centers, Queer Cultural Center and Asian Pacific Islander Cultural Center, are sub-grantees of SOMArts. General Fund money for CAE is supplemented by the Youth Arts Fund (Transit Advertising Funding), Hotel Tax Fund, GFTA, and work orders from the Library, Department of Public Works, and DCYF. CAE's total FY2012 budget is $3.7 million of which $2.0 million or 54% goes directly to the

Cultural Centers. Over the years, this figure has flat-lined, despite increasing costs and more severe capital needs.

The Cultural Centers act as community anchors and collectively provide free or low-cost arts classes and studio space for children, youth (as part of after-school and summer arts programs), and adults. The Centers also provide artist and curatorial residencies and free or low-cost venues for performances, exhibitions, and professional development services and other community organizations. They also provide technical services for fairs and festivals, case management services for "at risk" youth, and fiscal sponsorships for community artists and arts organizations.

CAE authority lies in the Charter at section 5.103, which describes, among other requirements, Commission responsibility to:

> [p]romote a neighborhood arts program to encourage and support an active interest in the arts on a local and neighborhood level, assure that the City and County-owned community cultural centers remain open, accessible and vital contributors to the cultural love of the City and County, establish liaison between community groups and develop support for neighborhood artists and arts organizations....

Under "Cultural, Educational, and Recreational Appropriations" the Charter[35] requires the Board of Supervisors to annually appropriate "[t]o the Arts Commission, for the City and County–owned Community Cultural Centers, an amount *sufficient for the purpose of maintaining, operating, providing for the security and superintending of their facilities and grounds*...." (Emphasis added.)

Further, in each of the lease agreements for the Cultural Centers themselves, the City is obligated to "repair and maintain the structural portions of the Building...." The 2006 Arts Task Force report noted the City's failure to meet its Charter responsibilities to support neighborhood arts. Some of its findings included: "the cultural centers ... are in advanced states of neglect" and recommended that the City "develop and implement financing plans for long-overdue capital improvements, seismic upgrades, and life-safety upgrades to City-owned arts facilities" and the creation of "more substantial and stable support for the neighborhood Cultural Centers." The City never fully instituted these recommendations. The City and County Capital Planning Committee lists over $100 million of facility needs for the Cultural Centers and their plan describes the current state of affairs as:

> Building deficiencies, seismic issues, and other needs remain unaddressed at the city's cultural centers. The severity of these facility needs, the cost of renovating the existing sites, and the possibility of relocating to other sites requires additional review and analysis.[36]

In recent years, some repairs and interior upgrades to floors, walls, and stages have been completed. Construction of ramps and renovation of bathrooms to meet ADA requirements has been undertaken. Repairs to heating and ventilating systems have been completed at some of the Centers. Funding for these repairs came from the Mayor's Office on Disability, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act through the Public Utilities Commission, the Capital Planning Committee, and a very small SFAC fund for facilities maintenance. Major needs such as roofing (particularly at the Mission Cultural Center), elevator repair, and seismic upgrades have not been done. In 2012, SFAC submitted FY13 and FY14 funding requests of $1,676,700 to the Capital Planning Program for improvements to the Cultural Centers. The Capital Planning Committee came back with recommended funding for $1,519,154. Cultural Center staff have also begun looking for capital improvement loans and grants from private sources. Year-to-year lease agreements at the Cultural Centers have hampered the ability of lessees to secure private, often multi-year, funding due to the uncertainties inherent in these short-term leases.

Security is also a major concern, particularly in the immediate environment of the Bayview Opera House. Two separate incidents reported in the news, the shooting of a child nearby and an assault against a construction worker at the Opera House, have jeopardized the use of this Cultural Center as a venue for classes and events. Burglaries and vandalism have also occurred at the Centers.

A. Findings

F22. The Cultural Centers are a primary responsibility of the Arts Commission under the Charter.

Responses are requested from the Mayor, the Arts Commission, the Director of Cultural Affairs, the Executive Director of the Bayview Opera House, the Executive Director of the African American Art and Cultural Complex, the Executive Director of the Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts, and the Executive Director of SOMArts.

F23. SFAC has not given the support and maintenance of the Cultural Centers the priority the Charter requires.

Responses are requested from the Mayor, the Board of Supervisors, the Arts Commission, the Director of Cultural Affairs, the Executive Director of the Bayview Opera House, the Executive Director of the African American Art and Cultural Complex, the Executive Director of the Mission Cultural Center for Latino Arts, and the Executive Director of SOMArts.

NOTES SUBMITTED BY OPS

P. 20 R15

The San Francisco Police Department will work with our cultural centers in a wide variety way including, but not limited to:

- Foot patrols in immediate area whenever possible.
- Officer interaction with community members as community partners (reading programs, mentoring, seasonal events and celebrations, etc...).
- Coordination with cultural centers for increased security for scheduled events.
- Deployment of regularly assigned officers to community assignments. This will establish key community partnerships by having the same officers assigned to the areas each and every day.
- The assignment of district station captain as the primary point of contact for cultural center directors.