



Re: Letter of Support for Pier 29 Art Project

1 message

Annice Jacoby <annice.jacoby@gmail.com>

Sun, May 18, 2025 at 9:20 PM

To: Claire Boyle <boylecv@gmail.com>

Dear Honorable Members of the Board of Supervisors,

I am writing to express my strong support for the establishment of Art + Water, a free artist residency and exhibition program at Pier 29. As an artist and a Bernal/Mission resident who values the cultural vitality and creative spirit of our community, I believe this initiative represents a crucial investment in San Francisco's collective future.

I have launched major cultural initiatives from City of Poets to *Street Art San Francisco (Abrams)* and recognize the mandate to uphold in bold & original ways the city's legacy & leadership in the arts. As Ruth Asawa practiced & demonstrated art as a daily act, she transformed schools. Dave Eggers & JD Beltran will carry this legacy forward with **Art + Water**. This program will serve San Francisco by expanding arts education in a spectacular setting and curriculum.

Artists are essential contributors to our city's identity, economy, and quality of life. They transform public spaces, stimulate critical conversations, attract tourism, and create the cultural fabric that makes our city unique. However, rising costs of living and limited affordable studio space have made it increasingly difficult for artists to remain and thrive here.

Art + Water's free artist residency and exhibition program would:

1. Retain and attract creative talent that might otherwise be forced to relocate to more affordable areas
2. Provide essential time, space, and resources for artists to develop meaningful work
3. Generate new cultural products and experiences for our community
4. Create opportunities for public engagement through exhibitions, workshops, and open studios
5. Reinforce our city as a forward-thinking supporter of the arts and creative industries

Similar programs in other major cities demonstrate significant returns on investment through increased cultural tourism, neighborhood revitalization, and enhanced civic pride. The economic benefits extend beyond direct revenue, creating spillover effects for local businesses and property values.

Dave Eggers has a superb record of creating welcoming, original, arts spaces that grow and grow. They grow great art, great community, great programs and great pride. The models are duplicated around the world inspired by the success of programs started in San Francisco. Greenlighting **Art + Water** will link with these many effective efforts. The programs are visionary with international cultural impact on arts education. I urge you to approve funding for **Art + Water** as part of San Francisco's commitment to a vibrant, inclusive, and culturally rich urban environment. The relatively modest financial investment would yield substantial dividends for our community's cultural, social, and economic wellbeing for generations to come.

Thank you for your consideration — San Francisco needs this!
Sincerely,

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