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May 12, 2017

Dear Board of Supervisors,

We write in strong opposition to the appointment of Mary Jung as Arts Commissioner.

In 2015, when there was broad acknowledgment that the Ellis Act needed to be reformed at the state level to prevent using it as a tool of speculation, Mary Jung with the SF Realtors, headed the fight to defeat reform. This despite our own Mayor Ed Lee and Sen. Mark Leno leading the charge for reforms for the betterment of tenants in this city.

We commend the Mayor and the Board of Supervisors at the time who unanimously passed a resolution in support of Ellis reform. To now reward someone who worked actively against the city's goals Jung with a prestigious appointment is a little baffling.

Arts funding for high profile museums and performance spaces have made San Francisco a worldwide destination. But their popularity can also intensify gentrification and speculation. When gallery and museum workers and artists find themselves priced out of the city, we should not be rewarding someone who has actively worked for the displacement of tenants for massive profits.

If you are serious about this housing crisis and regret the loss of so many of our neighbors, we urge you to vote down this appointment. There must be better community leaders who have shown true concern about stabilizing neighborhoods for the commission.

We thank you for your time,

Jennifer Fieber and Deepa Varma
San Francisco Tenants Union