



**BERKELEY CULTURAL TRUST**

**Meeting: Wednesday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 9-10:15AM**

**Cypress Room, 1<sup>st</sup> floor Martin Luther King, Jr. Civic Center  
2180 Milvia Street, Berkeley CA**

**1. Special Guest - District 6 Council Member - Susan Wengraf**

**What are Berkeley's priorities for 2017 and how can the arts and city partner going forward?**

Panel discussion sponsored by BCT and Susan Wengraf on affordable housing for artists and space for art organizations

- Proposed Panelists:
  - building director
  - planner
  - arts official
  - someone with legal expertise
  - someone to represent early career artists who are truly at risk
  - Northern California Loan Fund
- Need to have a clear idea of what we desire to learn from the panel in order to be effective
- Panel Volunteers:
  - Bruce Coughran (Inferno Theatre)
  - Sharon Dolan (Freight and Salvage)
  - Brian Scott (Berkeley Community Media)
  - Nancy Ng (Luna Dance Institute)
  - Jen Lovvorn (Civic Arts Commission)
  - Jon Tracy (Theatre First) *specifically interested in acting as liaison to get young artists involved*
  - Suzie Medak (Berkeley Rep)

Activate regional partnerships to avoid becoming territorial and to expand options for Berkeley since lack of space is an issue

Gilman District- underutilized district that should have zoning policies (light industrial) reworked

**2. Brainstorm on BCT Priorities for 2017**

SPACE

- Artists need to be a protected class in order to reserve affordable housing for them

ARTS MARKETING/VISIBILITY

- Need locals to think our organizations and our work is essential to this region's community

#### BUDGET

- Goal: 1% of city's budget, or a per capita amount
- Designated source of arts funding
  - Cannabis Tax

#### DAYLIGHT INDIVIDUAL ARTISTS

- How can we partner with them on these efforts: need to involve them to have well-rounded impact
- BCT members bring an artist from their organizations
- Recognize distrust between established organizations and individual artists on fringes
  - Be aware that it will take work to reach out to them and get them involved
- Under 40 individuals who work with other organizations and networks that may be under the radar

#### Over-arching Ideas:

- BCT should continue to work with Civic Arts Commission, since together they have a formalized way to put requests before Council
- Several of priorities could fit into a larger category of "Communications" > think systematically

#### **4. BCT Updates**

##### **Cultural Plan**

- Consider including strategies for regional involvement and partnerships

##### **Berkeley Arts Center**

- Strained lease negotiation may lead to permanent closure