



Dear Friend,

In these challenging times, California Lawyers for the Arts has managed to expand its services even as it continues to provide critically needed information, resources, and support for artists, arts organizations, and underserved communities. Your support at this time will help CLA strengthen its basic programs and fortify its advocacy for equity and justice.

To provide a brief recount of our recent activities:

We produced an A.B. 5 Toolkit and presented workshops on how the arts sector can adapt to the requirements of this state legislation, which mandates employment status for many arts workers who were previously paid as independent contractors.

We supported the federal bill, co-authored by U.S. Representatives Judy Chu and Adam Schiff of California, to expand Pandemic Unemployment Assistance for "mixed earners" who receive income from both employment and free-lance work, as many artists do. This measure was included in the federal stimulus bill that was just passed by Congress this week.

We pivoted all of our many educational programs to webinars, waiving fees upon request, and posted many of those programs on our YouTube channel.

Deserving youth enrolled in our summer Spotlight on the Arts program thrived in virtual internships, workshops, and college counseling.

And amidst all this, we have been busy making "good trouble," to quote Congressman John Lewis. We collected and submitted to Governor Newsom's office the names of 525 persons serving time in state prison who had been recommended for early release by 21 arts organizations that had worked with them inside. Inspired by the effectiveness of arts programs for rehabilitation, we continue to work with state and local arts-council leaders in five states to expand their arts-in-corrections programs.

And we are working with the Abolish Slavery National Network to amend the Thirteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which abolished slavery and involuntary servitude in 1865—except for people convicted of a crime.

Your support through a tax-deductible contribution will help us to continue these vital programs and to keep advocating for justice and equity. Thank you for your consideration, and stay safe. Happy Holidays!

All the best,

Steven A. Hirsch,
President of the Board

Alma Robinson,
Executive Director