

# Supervisors Try To Find Funds For Cultural Council

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A search is on to find \$42,000 in the county budget to fund the Cultural Council in 1982-83 at the same level it was funded this year.

Supervisors Wednesday unanimously adopted a \$900,000 budget for Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services for 1982-83, a budget which allocates a mere \$33,000 to the Cultural Commission compared to the \$75,000 given to the commission this year.

Not wanting to see this program which supports local artists go down the drain, supervisors directed Acting County Administrative Officer George Newell to report back on Friday on whether there's any place in the budget where \$42,000 can be taken to fund the Cultural Commission.

But this may be an impossible dream since supervisors have had to make drastic cuts this week in such areas as mental health and the Sheriff's Department patrol unit to make ends meet.

The Cultural Council was created by supervisors a few years ago to collect money from private sources and to distribute the funds through grants to local cultural programs and artists.

The Cultural Council also administers the SPECTRA program, where local artists bring their skills into classrooms throughout the county.

Several persons who have benefited from the efforts of the Cultural Council pleaded with supervisors to come up with more money.

Lance Linares, stage manager for KUSP radio, told supervisors how the radio station has flourished because of help from the Cultural Council.

"Having access to a grant that sustains your organization allows the organization to look toward the future

... This, coupled with the technical workshops provided by the Cultural Council, really gives us the ability to sustain ourselves. . . .

"Arts organizations are too often concentrating on struggling to survive, rather than to create."

"If the arts are to succeed and to grow, we need the support of everyone," Linares added. "That's why we're asking the board to fund us at the amount requested."

George Stavis, who represents the artists (known as associates) who receive grants from the Cultural Council, stated, "The beneficiaries aren't the artists who might gain employment, but are the people of the county whose lives are enriched."

Supervisors Gary Patton, Dan Forbus and Joe Cucchiara all told Stavis that if the associates truly are concerned about the money situation, they should take a more active role in raising funds in the community.

Margaret Lezin, who helped establish the Art Museum at the Main Library with the aid of two Cultural Council grants, told supervisors, "I don't think we could have gone out and got the community support without the backing of the county."

"It's essential that the Cultural Council continue and grow and it would be a tragedy to cut the funds in any way because it would be expensive to start it all over again. . . ."

Sam Leask, vice president of the Cultural Council, also stressed the importance of government support in stating, "I would urge the supervisors to reinstate the funding to the Cultural Council this year. The support of the county is needed to continue our fund-raising efforts."

Leask pointed out that \$63,000 raised through community

this year, a 23 percent increase over what was raised in 1980-81.

Although those involved with the Cultural Council got some hope of more money, they lost their cultural programs coordinator from the budget. This person acted as a liaison between the county government and the Cultural Council.

Concerned that cultural programs could suffer because of the elimination of the position, supervisors asked Newell to report on Friday how the services once performed by this person could continue. Patton suggested contracting out for these services.

The total Parks, Open Space and Cultural Services budget was given a boost with supervisors including in the budget a 15 percent increase in park dedication fees paid by developers.

This increase in fees won't become final until supervisors approve an ap-

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propriate resolution Friday and monies from the increased aren't yet in the budget.

But that didn't stop them from budgeting some of this additional money Wednesday.

On a 3-1 vote, with Supervisor E. Wayne Moore Jr. against, they appropriated \$20,000 for a Freedom Lake Master Plan. And in a unanimous vote, they allocated some of these new fees for a Highlands Park Master Plan and for playground equipment at Highlands Park.

In a money-saving move, supervisors directed that the parks department office be moved back to the County Center this year from its office building on Capitola Road. They are hoping to raise around \$20,000 by leasing out the Capitola Road office space in 1982-83.

Parks Department Director Larry Norris was upset about the move and said his department is "totally against" relocating to the County Center.