

**STEVE LAVAGNINO**  
County Supervisor  
Fifth District  
steve.lavagnino@countyofsb.org

**CORY BANTILAN**  
Chief of Staff  
cory.bantilan@countyofsb.org



**SANDY AGALOS**  
Administrative Assistant  
sandy.agalos@countyofsb.org

**YESENIA CUEVAS**  
Administrative Assistant  
yesenia.cuevas@countyofsb.org

## COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

Rick Boller, Executive Director  
Karen Kerns, Chair, Board of Directors  
Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation  
1122 N. Milpas  
Santa Barbara, CA 93103

April 25, 2024

Dear Mr. Boller and Ms. Kerns:

I write on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to explore how, working together, we can initiate a conversation to provide additional funding to support the County's arts services for the public.

During the recently completed County Budget Workshops, my Board colleagues unanimously expressed strong support for fostering discussions with the Foundation's leadership to explore avenues for enhancing the Arts Subsidy annual contribution generated from the per-ticket charge, which directly supports the free public arts and culture programs, grants, and services offered by the County.

With this letter, we trust you will agree it is appropriate to entertain potential adjustments to the present contribution structure to meet the evolving needs of our vibrant arts scene.

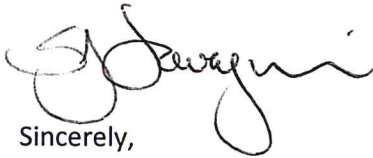
As you know, the lease agreement between the County and the Bowl Foundation provides that the Foundation shall pay a fee of \$0.50 per ticket, currently to a maximum of \$56,750 annually. Though the annual amount is subject to a CPI adjustment every five years, the \$0.50/ticket fee has been in place since 2015 and is set to remain fixed through the 45-year term of the base lease unless an alternative recourse is reached. Of course, any proposed increase in this charge would necessitate a mutually agreed-upon amendment to the lease, reflecting a shared commitment to bolstering the cultural fabric of our region.

We want to acknowledge the Foundation for its ongoing support of the performing arts for K-12 students through its Education Outreach Program, and share our appreciation for the great impact this has countywide. As noted in the Foundation's 2022 Annual Report, "the Foundation [committed] \$1.00 per paid ticket to Outreach, totaling \$168,421 in 2022." This investment not only enriched the lives of our youth but also ensures a robust future for the arts in our community.

As we all agree, the arts play a transformative role in shaping our lives, fostering creativity, empathy, and cultural understanding. As advocates for the arts, we understand that sustained funding is crucial to nurturing artistic expression across multiple disciplines, supporting local artists, and fostering a dynamic

cultural landscape. The County Arts Commission also plays an indispensable role in enriching the lives of our constituents and our County.

We urge continued collaboration to discuss avenues to increase the Arts Subsidy contributions, whether it takes the form of adjusting the ticket fee mentioned above, or some other mechanism, we welcome the discussion. The goal remains the same: to ensure that the arts remain accessible and continue to thrive for generations to come. Our hope is to discuss a fee structure more in line with the Foundation's Outreach Program funding strategy. We look forward to initiating this dialogue in the near future.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Lavagnino". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Steve" being more prominent and larger than the last name "Lavagnino".

Sincerely,  
Steve Lavagnino, Chair  
Santa Barbara Board of Supervisors

CC: Board Members  
Mona Miyasato, County CEO  
Jesús Armas, Community Services Director