



# Memorandum

**TO:** ARTS COMMISSION

**FROM:** Kerry Adams Hapner

**SUBJECT: STATUS OF THE TRIANON  
THEATRE**

**DATE:** May 8, 2019

Approved

Date

May 9, 2019

## RECOMMENDATION

Review and receive this update on the status of the Trianon Theatre and assistance to grantees most impacted by its sale.

## BACKGROUND

The historic Le Petit Trianon building, located at 72 N 5th St, in downtown San Jose was sold in late April 2019. Located within the building, the 318-seat Trianon Theatre was for decades the premier downtown performance venue for many smaller classically-based music organizations in the greater San Jose area. The Trianon's fine acoustical qualities, intimate setting and plentiful free weekend parking across the street attracted many performing arts groups, including San Jose Chamber Music Society, San Jose Chamber Orchestra, San Jose International Piano Competition, Steinway Society The Bay Area, South Bay Guitar Society, Mission Chamber Orchestra, San Jose Chamber Youth Orchestra, Fremont Mission Music Institute, and Music Teacher Association of California student's recitals.

Under new ownership, the Le Petit Trianon building will no longer be available for rental as a performance venue. Organizations with existing contracts will be allowed to perform through the current season, which ends in June 2019. Agreements made under the former owner for rental during the FY2019-20 season will not be honored.

## ANALYSIS

On May 7, staff from the Office of Cultural Affairs, along with staff from the Mayor's office, Councilmember Peralez's office and SVCcreates, met with five representatives of the affected

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organizations to receive an update on the situation and discuss ways that the City can support the organizations during this period.

The change in availability of the theater poses challenges for the regular users of the Trianon. Several San Jose arts organizations have already planned their FY2019-20 seasons, entered into contracts with artists, and/or sold early subscriptions for Trianon performances.

### **Assistance to Impacted FY2019-20 Arts Program Grantees**

To assist in locating alternate performing facilities, staff compiled a list of San Jose venues with information on venue size, location and booking contact. This resource is being used by impacted groups and will be provided to others who had planned to use the Trianon. Staff will also notify booking managers of City-owned facilities to alert them of the situation.

If suitable San Jose venues cannot be identified for all planned performances, organizations recommended for FY2019-20 take pART grants that have had their season performance contracts cancelled at the Trianon will be allowed, on a one-time basis, to amend their grant scopes and budgets. Provided that the majority of their originally-proposed concerts continue to take place in San Jose, their grant amounts will remain as recommended by the grant panel. The following groups may elect to take advantage of this one-time provision: San Jose Chamber Music Society, Santa Clara Valley Performing Arts Association (Mission Chamber Orchestra) and South Bay Guitar Society.

The FY2019-20 Operating Grant recommendations for Trianon users, specifically the San Jose Chamber Orchestra and Steinway Society, will not be impacted as long as grantees continue to hold the majority of their public performances in San Jose as required by the Operating Grant guidelines.

In addition, the proposed FY2019-20 arts budget includes one-time funding of up to \$40,000 to support the needs of the following grantees whose season performance contracts were cancelled at the Trianon:

- San Jose Chamber Music Society
- San Jose Chamber Orchestra
- Santa Clara Valley Performing Arts Association (Mission Chamber Orchestra)
- South Bay Guitar Society
- Steinway Society

These one-time funds are intended to partially offset costs arising from unexpected contract cancellations, including unbudgeted expenses at alternate San Jose venues. Although priority will be for organizations that have had contracts cancelled, take pART grantees that specified the

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Trianon in their grant as their venue for a one-time performance may also be assisted if they experience significantly increased venue costs at a new location.

The sale of the Trianon Theatre is a significant loss to the many smaller-budget music organizations that performed at this acoustically-excellent and affordable downtown theater for thousands of audience members over the decades. Staff will continue to keep the Arts Commission apprised of future developments and support the impacted organizations to successfully transition during this situation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Kerry Adams Hapner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

KERRY ADAMS HAPNER

Director of Cultural Affairs