



Memorandum

TO: ARTS COMMISSION

FROM: CORNERSTONE OF
THE ARTS PLANNING
COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: CORNERSTONE OF THE ARTS

DATE: February 12, 2020

RECOMMENDATION

Recommend that the Arts Commission review and accept the Cornerstone of the Arts Planning Committee's recommendation to include a new category to the Cornerstone of the Arts event called the Founders Recognition Award.

BACKGROUND

At the request of Commissioner James, the Cornerstone Planning Committee has been studying the possibility of including a new recognition to the three existing categories: Cornerstone of the Arts Award, Business Support for the Arts Award, and Creative Impact Award. The new recognition is for people considered to be the founders of San Jose's major arts organizations or movements: think Sammy Cohen, founder of San Jose Jazz Society, or John Healy Jr., founder of Children's Musical Theatre, and many others. While some of these pioneers may be appropriate for the Cornerstone of the Arts award (as was Irene Dalis), most, due to the passage of time or lack of historical knowledge, may never be recognized. This recommendation is an attempt to rectify that situation.

ANALYSIS

Although there are more details to be worked out, the Committee recommends that the 2020 Cornerstone event contain a new honor called the Founders Recognition Award. Given the finite set of qualifications, (founding a major arts organization of movement) the honoree will be selected by each year's Cornerstone selection committee and submitted, with the other honorees, to the Arts Commission for approval. Arts Commissioners may make recommendations to the selection committee. A small segment of the event will be dedicated to the honoree with a certificate and brief testimonial. Honorees who are available will be invited to accept the award in person.

/s/

PLANNING COMMITTEE