

**CITY OF SAN JOSE ARTS COMMISSION:
ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR FY 2023-2024**

CANDIDATE STATEMENTS

CHAIR (Candidate 1)

Charlie McCollum

Position: Chair, San Jose Arts Commission

I would like to put my name forward as a candidate to be Chair of the Arts Commission for the commission's 2023-24 year.

I have served on the Arts Commission since January 2017, representing District 2 and taking on a variety of roles including being a member of the Executive Committee and the Cornerstone of the Arts Committee, a grant panelist and, most recently, Chair of the Public Art Committee. I believe strongly in the mission (or missions) of the Commission: work with the Office of Cultural Affairs, advocating for city support of the arts and ensuring diversity, equity and inclusion guide what we do.

I have been on the Commission through some difficult times, most notably the pandemic years, and I believe I contributed to keeping the Commission as strong and active as possible under trying circumstances. Now that we are moving out of the pandemic and its after effects, I believe I can provide some guidance to put us on track to accomplish some long-held goals, most notably stabilizing and expanding sources of funding for the arts in our community. Given the impact of the pandemic on arts organizations and individual artists, our advocacy role as a Commission is more important than ever.

For those of you who don't know my background, I was a writer and editor with the Mercury News almost 30 years until I retire in 2013. For the last 10 years of that, I worked as writer/editor for the paper's Arts and Entertainment section, ending my career as Arts and Entertainment editor for the Mercury and the entire Bay Area News Group.

Since then, I have been active in the community as a board member with City Lights Theater, the Happy Hollow Foundation and the San Jose Downtown Association Foundation and as a volunteer with San Jose Jazz and the late San Jose Rep. As a member of the San Jose Rotary Club, I work on committees directly related to the club's support of the arts including the Leigh Weimers Emerging Artists Awards.

I think I have the experience and background to serve as Chair of the Commission and would hope to provide leadership as we move forward in the coming year.

(See next page.)

VICE-CHAIR (Candidate 1)

Lynne Rosenthal

Position: Vice Chair, San Jose Arts Commission

As a long time community volunteer in many groups in the Bay area, many art related, I would like to continue having an impact on local arts organizations. And to secure their success, survival and health going into the future.