<u>Art\*Education\*Design</u> merielstern.com

Meriel Stern 818-422-0631

October 23, 2017

Dear Mr. Mayor and Council:

I am writing in support of three "Budget Clean Up" items which I understand are on your upcoming agenda.

Included are increased appropriations to cover the FY 2017-18 Annual Grants Program Awards-- an item already approved by the Art Commission and placed on our work plan this past July. I urge you to approve this, as recommended by staff. As you know, we are very proud of the art programs that we are able to support in this city, and hope to continue to do so. As a member of the Grants Subcommittee for the past 7 years I can attest to the uniquely high quality of the process and panels and the growing number of excellent applications that this program attracts.

Also on your agenda is re-appropriation for the Rotating III Public Art Program. This is another unique, highly esteemed and very popular program of Cultural Affairs. I urge you to approve funding so that staff can contract with the artists selected by the Panel in July and approved by the Commission in August. I also hope that you can support the modest increase in appropriations for 1 new site in each district for this Program.

Your approval of these appropriations will signal to the city staff and commissions, local art community and most importantly, your constituents, that you understand the value of Cultural Affairs, and the cultural and financial value they represent to our beautiful Pasadena.

Thank you,

Meriel Stern 377 Douglas St. 91104 Arts and Culture Commission Design Commission