

**San Francisco
Arts Commission**

Edwin M. Lee
Mayor

Tom DeCaigny
Director of
Cultural Affairs

Programs:
Civic Art Collection
Civic Design Review
Community Arts & Education
Cultural Equity Grants
Public Art
SFAC Galleries
Street Artist Licensing

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City and County of
San Francisco

A letter from the Director of Cultural Affairs – December 17, 2012

In January 2012, I had the honor of being appointed Director of Cultural Affairs by Mayor Ed Lee and the San Francisco Arts Commission (SFAC). After twelve wonderful years serving as the director of a San Francisco arts organization, I am thrilled to have the opportunity to guide the SFAC to the next level of municipal arts leadership. It's a critical time for us to work together with the arts community and our City partners to integrate the arts into all aspects of civic life and to champion the arts as a dynamic vehicle for building sustainable communities and improving the quality of life in San Francisco.

San Francisco's arts community is one of the most daring, innovative, and vital of any city. Recent research speaks to the volume and richness of our local arts industry and the opportunities for a strong, sustainable arts ecosystem. Our arts and culture-inspired tourism generates approximately \$1.7 billion in local visitor spending (according to research issued by the San Francisco Travel Association). The Americans for the Arts 2012 Arts & Economic Prosperity Report further reveals that our local non-profit arts and culture organizations support 19,744 full-time equivalent jobs and \$508.9 million in household income. The City's investment in the arts offers a clear demonstrated return – in tourism dollars, in local jobs, and in stronger neighborhoods – ensuring that San Francisco remains the innovation capital of the world and a great place to live.

With that, I am very pleased to present the SFAC's annual report for FY 2012. We have structured this year's report to include district-based fact sheets and some more in-depth stories about agency projects that have citywide impact. Some highlights of the report include: the 40th anniversary of our Street Artist Licensing Program, which has championed a DIY business model since 1972; start of conservation on the historic Coit Tower murals; and the ongoing revitalization of Central Market Street through cultural activation on U.N. Plaza. In the following pages, you will also see the impact of our groundbreaking Cultural Equity Grants program, which supports hundreds of diverse arts organizations and individual artists in all of our neighborhoods.

We have much to applaud this year and even more to look forward to in FY 2013. Stay tuned, as the SFAC embarks on a comprehensive strategic planning and community engagement process to improve our services to the community. If you're not already connected, I invite you to join our network to learn about up-to-the-minute arts opportunities, events, programs, and resources. We look forward to working with you in 2013!

Sincerely,



Tom DeCaigny
Director of Cultural Affairs