

From: [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, December 11, 2024 12:06 PM

To: clerk@losgatosca.gov

Cc: 'Ryan Baker' <RBaker@losgatosca.gov>

Subject: Letter for reasons I am not able to attend an in-person meeting on 12/16/2024 for Commission reappointment.

Thank you for opportunity to be interviewed for the position on the Arts & Culture Commission. I am an incumbent, my name is Thomas C. Spilsbury, and I have been a very active Commissioner and a member of the Arts Commission for over 12 years. Unfortunately, due to the late notice of this very important interview, and the unique holiday schedule this year I am unable to attend the interview. I will be out of town and unable due to time change issues participate in the teleconference interview process as well. I am required to be in Nampa, Idaho in business meetings I cannot postpone or reschedule.

I take my involvement with the Arts Commission very seriously and have volunteered hundreds of hours for the work and involvement that the Arts Commission has been associated with over the past many years. I am very proud of the accomplishments that we have been apart of to promote Public Art in our Community and the public art projects that I have worked tirelessly to make come to fruition. Some of the projects I have been involved with are as follows:

- 1) The Children's Art Bridge: I was instrumental in securing an application process of the Children Art that would be compatible with the bridge materials , work with the Los Gatos Rec. Department to hire an art teacher and set the curriculum for the program , and then work with the Town's Public Works Department to get them installed and maintained . This project is now an ongoing program that almost pays 100% for itself and has been wildly successful. (this project took almost 3 years to get up and operating)
- 2) Outside The Box Program: I worked hand in hand with Marina Chislett, Parks & Public Works on all phases of this very successful project that converted old unattractive utility boxes into small "Works Of Art" in all the different neighborhoods of Los Gatos . This project is still on going and was started in 2015 or so .
- 3) The Public Art Assessment Fund: This program took almost nine years to conceptualize, get approved legally and politically and involved the public for their support and approval. This program was the most important project I was totally involved with in that it creates funds for Public Art for now and in the future. This fund provides for Public Art that is funded without the burden on the Town of Los Gatos budget .
- 4) The Gateway "Cat" Project: This project originated in 2014. I worked with Public Works and researched 14 different locations as to their viability for "Gateway " status. These locations were then further defined down to 5 locations. We then went out to secure artists , which Ryan Baker was instrumental and got 17 artists which thru the public being involved got it to 3 artists then to 1. This project has been extremely successful as we have installed 3 of the sculptures and as of now, we have defined the last 2 locations for the last two "Cats" which will be installed early 2025 and 2026.
- 5) Member of the committee for The Town Of Los Gatos Art Grant Program.

I believe that I have been a creative force on this Commission and I have used my knowledge and background to work to achieve more awareness of Public Art. I have been able to as use my skills to promote the implementation of these concepts. I have lived all my adult life in Los Gatos having moved here in the beginning of 1962 (63years). I am very proud of what we have been able to accomplish and believe that the Town is also proud of the work we have done. I also have the time to commit to the schedule and time required of the Commission. I would very much enjoy moving forward with the Commission as we are looking at the “Beautification of The Bas Relief Concrete Panels “under the Town’s Roberts Road Bridge on the Los Gatos Creek Trail. These panels were created by the engineering department under Kevin Rohani. Hopefully, this would be the first Public Art Project totally funded by the Public Art Assessment Fund. I am excited and enthusiastic about continuing my very active role on these long-term art concepts and projects, and think I am a valuable player in making Public Art more of a focal point in our Community. Please use my talents and expertise and longevity on the commission and reinstate me as a Commissioner. Thank you for your time and consideration. If there are any questions, please reach out to me . Respectfully , Thomas C. Spilsbury