

Dear Arts and Culture Colleagues,

All three candidates that declared their support for the arts early and loudly have been elected to the San Diego City Council!

Sherri Lightner defeated the well financed Phil Thalheimer in District 1 (La Jolla, Carmel Valley, Rancho Penasquitos) with 52% of the vote, Todd Gloria defeated fellow Democrat Stephen Whitburn in District 3 (Hillcrest, North Park, South Park, City Heights) with 54% of the vote, and retired newscaster Marti Emerald came from behind to defeat April Boling in District 7 (Tierra Santa, City Heights, College, Rolando) with 51% of the vote.

There is no doubt that our engagement with the candidates early in the year through our Briefing and Questionnaires helped them understand the role of arts and culture in the city. And the effort made by arts supporters to assist the candidates as donors and volunteers helped lift them to victory. Arts and Culture clearly made a difference in this very close election.

These three newly elected City Council Members will take office in one month and need to hear a resounding "Congratulations!" from arts and culture supporters and organizations right away. Thank each one for their strong statement of support for arts and culture during the campaign. Organizations should invite them to visit their facilities, programs, or events - especially if those facilities are located in the councilmember-elect's district. And the many individuals from the arts community that volunteered, donated, and supported these candidates at any point during the campaign should highlight their personal excitement at being able to help the candidate win.

Send your letters on letterhead or emails to:

Sheri Lightner
Council Member Elect, District 1
PO Box 928495
San Diego, CA 92192
vote@sherrilightner.org

Todd Gloria
Council Member Elect, District 3
1010 University Avenue, #1791
San Diego, CA 92103
todd@toddlgloria.com

Marti Emerald
Council Member Elect, District 7
5107 Waring Road
San Diego, CA 92120
marthaemerald@yahoo.com

In the midst of this great news at the City of San Diego comes this very disturbing news from the County of San Diego. http://www.voiceofsandiego.org/this_just_in/ Keep an eye out for a Coalition Meeting Notice to come in the near future.

Our work is never done.