



September 18, 2020

Americans for the Arts
Public Art Network Council
1000 Vermont Avenue, NW, 6th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

Dear Council Members,

I am writing to you today to personally recommend an outstanding member of our community to fill an upcoming advisory board vacancy for the Americans for the Arts Public Art Network.

The community leader I would like to recommend is Mark Salinas, former Director of Arts & Culture of Carson City and current board member of the Nevada Arts Council.

To introduce myself, I am the Chair of Cultural Alliance Nevada (CAN). We are a statewide 501C3 non-profit grassroots advocacy group, dedicated to the advancement of arts, culture and arts education through advocacy, education and partnership.

Mark has been a great partner to CAN...As a member of our group representing Nevada in Washington, DC in March for Arts Advocacy Day in 2017 and 2019, Mark was a leader for us in speaking with many of our Senate and House members advocating for funding for the National Endowment for the Arts, and in turn, the Nevada Arts Council.

As a Hispanic man, Mark spoke well for the needs of our state and our communities, as it pertains to the arts in every form. He added a perspective that was missing before, and I could see how well our elected officials responded to him and his eloquent delivery of our state's needs and what funding for the arts does for our communities in every corner of our state.

Mark has only been living in the rural community of Carson City for a relatively short period of time, and yet has established a great reputation as an outstanding community partner. I join my fellow artists and arts organizations in Reno welcoming him in his relocation to our city this month. Many of us already know him and his work.

Mark has worked very hard to familiarize himself with our great state, traveling to many of our rural cities to learn their needs and to let them know what programs are there for them.

Mark co-sponsored Arts Day at the Nevada Legislature in 2017 and 2019 with CAN which, we are proud to say, was very well attended.

AFTA would be both wise and fortunate, in my opinion, to consider Mark Salinas as a board member. I am sure that he would likewise be honored to be able to represent AFTA across the state.

Thank you for allowing my recommendation.

Respectfully,

Tia Flores
Board Chair