

# **REPORT OF THE CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

---

DATE: March 23, 2015

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections and Intergovernmental Relations Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso *SKL*  
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 15-0002-S13  
Assignment No: 15-02-0144

SUBJECT: Resolution (Cedillo - Blumenfield) to support confirmation of Diane Rodriguez to the National Council on the Arts.

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the attached Resolution to include in the City's 2015-16 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT of the confirmation by the United States Senate of Diane Rodriguez to the National Council on the Arts.

## SUMMARY

Resolution (Cedillo – Blumenfield), introduced February 17, 2015, states that the National Arts and Cultural Development Act of 1964 established the National Council on the Arts which advises the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts on matters such as federal grant funds, policy directions involving Congressional legislation, and other matters of importance to the arts nationally. The Resolution indicates that President Obama has nominated Center Theatre Group associate artistic director Diane Rodriguez to the National Council on the Arts. The Resolution notes that Ms. Rodriguez resides in Echo Park, produced sketches for United Farm Workers in Central California and co-founded El Teatro de La Esperanza as well as the comedy troupe Latinos Anonymous.

The Resolution states that Presidential appointments to the National Council on the Arts are selected for their widely recognized knowledge and accomplishment in the arts and represent all areas of the country. According to the Resolution, this appointment will not be final until it receives approval by the United States Senate. The Resolution advises that Ms. Rodriguez is highly qualified for this appointment and deserves swift confirmation. It further requests that the City support the confirmation by the United States Senate of Diane Rodriguez to the National Council on the Arts.

## BACKGROUND


The National Arts and Cultural Development Act of 1964 established the National Council on the Arts which advises the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts on agency policies and programs such as the following: applications for Federal grant funds, leadership initiatives and partnership agreements with other agencies, agency budget levels and funding priorities, policy matters related to Congressional legislation, and other issues of importance to the arts. In addition, the Council on the Arts recommends individuals and organizations to receive the National Medal of Arts to recognize outstanding contributions to the arts within the United States.

Members of the National Council on the Arts are appointed by the President and approved by the Senate for six-year terms. Currently, there are eighteen members of the National Council on the Arts and an additional six members of Congress who serve in an ex-officio capacity for a term of two years. Presidential appointments are selected for their widely recognized knowledge, expertise, or interest in the arts and are appointed to represent all geographic areas of the country.

On January 12, 2015, the *Los Angeles Times* reported that President Obama has nominated Ms. Diane Rodriguez to the National Council on the Arts. According to the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center, Ms. Rodriguez was born and spent her formative years in San Jose, California and received a Bachelor of Arts from the University of California, Santa Barbara. Upon graduation, she worked with El Teatro Campesino as an actor for eleven years. In 1988, she co-founded the comedy troupe *Latins Anonymous* and published a two-play anthology titled "*Latins Anonymous*." In addition, Ms. Rodriguez was the director of the Latino Theatre Initiative at the Mark Taper Forum. In 2005, she became Associate Producer/Director of New Play Production at Center Theatre Group Los Angeles. According to the UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center, her work is distinguished for its political content and use of humor.

The Department of Cultural Affairs supports the Resolution and states that Ms. Rodriguez is highly qualified and that she will provide leadership in the arts and cultural sectors at the national level at the National Council on the Arts.

Departments Notified  
Cultural Affairs

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Randol  
Analyst

Attachment:

Resolution (Cedillo - Blumenfield)

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must first have been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the National Arts and Cultural Development Act of 1964 established the National Council on the Arts; and

WHEREAS, the National Council on the Arts advises the Chairperson of the National Endowment for the Arts on matters such as federal grant funds, policy directions involving Congressional legislation, and other matters of importance to the arts nationally; and

WHEREAS, President Obama has nominated Center Theatre Group associate artistic director Diane Rodriguez to the National Council on the Arts; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Rodriguez, who resides in Echo Park, produced sketches for United Farm Workers in Central California and cofounded El Teatro de La Esperanza as well as the comedy troupe Latins Anonymous; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Rodriguez has also worked with smaller theatre companies throughout Los Angeles, is an award-winning stage actress, and won an Obie award in 2007 for playing multiple roles in Heather Woodbury's *Tale of Two Cities*; and

WHEREAS, Presidential appointments to the National Council on the Arts are selected for their widely recognized knowledge and accomplishment in the arts and represent all areas of the country; and

WHEREAS, this appointment will not be final until it receives approval by the United States Senate; and

WHEREAS; Ms. Rodriguez is highly qualified for this appointment due to her exceptional talents and accomplishments in the arts, and deserves swift confirmation by the United States Senate;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015-16 Federal Legislative Program SUPPORT of the confirmation by the United States Senate of Diane Rodriguez to the National Council on the Arts.

PRESENTED BY: Gilbert Cedillo  
GILBERT A. CEDILLO  
Councilmember, 1<sup>st</sup> District

SECONDED BY: B.R. Blumenthal

  
FEB 17 2015

ORIGINAL