



April 24, 2020

Dear di Rosa Community:

In the wake of the current COVID-19 crisis, the di Rosa Board of Directors unanimously approved measures to protect the future of di Rosa Center for Contemporary Art and its ability to serve our community. We write today to share our conviction that di Rosa has a bright future ahead as we undertake efforts in the coming months to strengthen both our operations and our connections. To do so, our Board has determined to continue the temporary public closure of di Rosa's campus through the end of 2020. Community and civic education activities will continue remotely this year and the campus will reopen to the public in January with new exhibitions planned for 2021.

While the COVID-19 pandemic has forced this temporary closure, our mission to engage the community with important ideas through art is steadfast. Over the next several months, the Board and core team will work to map out our future and prepare to emerge from these uncertain times ready to engage with our community in full once more.

We believe this is the perfect time to work diligently on strategic thinking and financial management. We are continuing our work to define a focused legacy collection. The process remains part of our strategy going forward and is proceeding with careful consideration.

This is also a time of staff transitions. Executive Director Robert Sain will transition to director emeritus status, effective May 1 and continuing through the 2020 calendar year. We thank Bob for his leadership since 2016 and look forward to celebrating his contributions to di Rosa when it's safe to gather.

Also effective on May 1, several di Rosa staff members will be laid off or furloughed. The remaining staff members will maintain di Rosa's facilities and critical operational functions. We are keeping a close eye on Federal and State legislative measures, particularly regarding unemployment compensation and Federal financial assistance, in order to best assist our laid-off/furloughed employees and support our operations moving forward. During this period of transition, Michelle Lounibos Russell, CFO/COO and Andrea Saenz Williams, Director of Education & Civic Engagement will share management responsibilities for operations and programs respectively, and will report directly to the Board.



Serving the community is an important component of what we do at di Rosa. We are actively working to support key community partners during this time, and we stand ready to do more as organizations resume their activities. This includes valued relationships with California College of the Arts and Sonoma State University; the Boys and Girls Clubs of Napa Valley; Community Resources for Children; Napa County Public Library and Sonoma Valley Regional Library; and La Luz in Sonoma. In addition, di Rosa is steadily increasing its online presence to include fun, thought-provoking, and informational content for all ages, including weekly bilingual art activities. Looking ahead to 2021, guest curator Kate Eilertsen is working on an exhibition plan to include a showcase of exceptional works from the di Rosa collection.

During these troubled days, we ask for your patience as di Rosa's dedicated Board and staff work toward reopening in January. The decisions outlined above were not easy ones for the Board to make, but necessary as di Rosa's sustainability is our highest priority. While the current crisis poses unprecedented challenges, we are confident that with your help, we can weather the storm and ensure that di Rosa continues to thrive as a community resource and home to extraordinary art exhibitions in our world-class Napa setting.

We look forward to seeing you next year. In the meantime, we will continue to share updates via email and on di Rosa's [website](#). We also invite you to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#), and [Twitter](#).

You are important to us. We wish you and your loved ones the best,

Linda B. Fine  
Co-President

Girish Satya  
Co-President

On behalf of di Rosa Board of Directors