

ABOUT YOU

Please provide your name as it will appear on the ballot: Betty Duong

What office are you seeking? Santa Clara County Supervisor District 2

Are you an incumbent in this office? No

Do you now or have you ever held elected office(s)? *If so, please list title(s), jurisdiction(s), and years in each office:* No

Where's your hometown? San Jose, CA

What is your current city of residence? San Jose, CA

What is your highest level of education? Juris Doctorate

What is your current primary vocation/occupation? Chief of Staff, Supervisor Cindy Chavez

Do you have an arts background of any kind? *If so, please explain.* No. I just really enjoy the arts and consider myself a patron and supporter.

ABOUT YOUR CAMPAIGN

Please share your candidate statement as it will appear in voting materials. (approx. 200 words)

Hi, I'm Betty Duong. I'm a mother, attorney, community advocate, and County leader. I'm a first-time candidate with a decade of experience solving problems in County government. The County of Santa Clara faces serious challenges that demand experienced leaders.

This is more than just my home. It's where my refugee family rebuilt our lives, relying on County support. After attending community college, I graduated from UC Berkeley and UC Davis School of Law, worked as a public interest attorney and spent a decade solving problems within county government, prioritizing efficiency and innovation.

As Supervisor, I will address our homelessness crisis head-on, helping keep our neighbors in their homes and addressing drug addiction and mental health. I'll continue working to create affordable housing opportunities so families can stay in Santa Clara County.

We will make our communities safer by holding violent criminals accountable while investing in programs that prevent crime before it happens.

I led the effort to create thousands of homes through the nation's most ambitious bond, served as Project Manager to the Vietnamese American Service Center, helped launch the largest senior nutrition program in the County, and created the Office of Labor Standards Enforcement to support workers and small businesses.

I have support from the South Bay Labor Council, Congresswoman Zoe Lofgren, Supervisor Cindy Chavez, and County Sheriff Bob Jonsen. Join us at BettyDuong.com.

What is your campaign budget? \$250,000 - I accepted the voluntary maximum expenditure limit of \$250,000 thereby allowing me to receive individual donations of up to \$1000.

How much have you raised to date? *Please specify if you have loaned or contributed any personal funds to your campaign and how much.* \$253,165

How many doors have you personally knocked to date? Approximately 10,000

ABOUT THE ARTS

What is your perception of the current state of arts and culture in San José? (250 words)

As someone who is born and raised in San Jose, I have witnessed and experienced the fairly recent proliferation of public art in murals, electric utility boxes, and light art installations reflecting the values of diversity and community. We are rich in heritage and culture that deserves to be celebrated and in places where it is, there is a decline in blight, trash, and violence. And we have no shortage of creatives and artists in San Jose, just a shortage of investments and integration of their work into our daily governance at the City and County. We can and should do more.

How would you define the role of arts and culture in San José's economy? (250 words)

The role of arts and culture is central to the core of our communities and identities. The support of local arts and culture facilitates the external manifestation of our city's and county's vibrancy. This vibrancy cannot be mimicked or manufactured, which is why San Jose has the opportunity to become a destination for the arts and celebration of culture which in turn supports economical development in a fair and just way while advancing core County missions to advance health and well being, safer communities, violence prevention, and positive socialization and experiences for vulnerable families and youth. The role of arts and culture is critical to our local economy and our long term health as a community.

Were you familiar with SJAA before receiving this survey? Yes

If yes to the above, are you familiar with our current [policy priorities](#)? Yes

ABOUT OUR PRIORITIES

The following questions are directly related to SJAA's policy priorities. Your direct responses are appreciated!

Would you support a policy requiring large private developments to contribute funding and/or space and other resources to public arts and cultural programs in San José — similar to existing policies in Bay Area cities like Sunnyvale and Berkeley? Why or why not? *You can read an overview of SJAA's policy proposal [here](#).*

Yes. Arts and cultural programs have been primarily supported by non profit and community based organizations. This additional source of revenue is necessary and will integrate the support of the arts and cultural programs with private investments to ensure a social responsibility to communities they are developing in.

Would you support reallocating the current 40% General Fund set aside from the Transient Occupancy Tax (aka TOT or Hotel Tax) to arts, culture, and tourism programs? Why or why not?

Yes. This reallocation will have an immediate positive impact on the local economy through to support of local artists, investment in cultural programs that will uplift our local communities and historically marginalized communities, and support a cultural identity for San Jose and Santa Clara County that has been largely ignored.

Would you support the creation of positions within city departments for artists in residence to coordinate with staff on community engagement and strategic planning — as other municipalities like [Los Angeles County](#) are already doing? Why or why not?

Yes. Although I can't speak for the city, I believe that this is an initiative worth pursuing at the County. The development and support of art in partnership with community supports the County's core missions of advancing health and wellness, violence prevention, and public safety through a lens of racial equity. Art is healing, unifying, and celebrates identity and community, collaborations such as that of LA County can help restore and build upon community relationships and creates a space for community to take lead.

OPEN FORUM

What are some other ideas you have for increasing City support for arts and culture?

Add an arts and cultural component, where appropriate, to our metrics of success when evaluating or developing workplans for community oriented programming. For example, our violence prevention work conducted through Probation and the Social Services Agency can serve as pilots for an arts and culture component that is defined by community members (youth, mothers, families, etc) during the assessment or priority setting of such programming. So that instead of coming up with a reason to add an art or cultural component, staff would have to provide a reason for why such a component would not add value to the programming or project. This will give administration an indication of the importance and perception of art and culture within vulnerable communities that the County has prioritized for service and support.

What do you wish we had asked but didn't?

How have I supported the arts? In addition to being a patron of the arts through personal investments made at art shows and galleries, I have supported the arts in my capacity as a community member and as a County employee. I partner with Young Art studios to bring art classes, workshops, and art supplies to community events such as the Christmas celebration at Valley Palms to make sure children have access to art lessons and materials that would otherwise have been inaccessible due to cost. I was also the project manager for the development of the Vietnamese American Service Center, home to the County's inaugural arts program - a light art installation on the roof of the building depicting the three regions of Viet Nam.