



Diablo Regional Arts Association

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE



Leshler Center for the Arts  
1601 Civic Drive  
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***Diablo Regional Arts Association Announces New Board President***

*Catharine Baker, Former California State Assemblywoman, returns to the Board of Directors as President and begins new fiscal year with focus, energy, and commitment.*

**WALNUT CREEK, CA, August 8, 2019** – Diablo Regional Arts Association (DRAA) is proud to announce that former California State Assemblywoman, Catharine B. Baker, has returned to the Board of Directors as President. As the Leshler Center for the Arts prepares to celebrate its 30th anniversary in 2020, Baker is equipped to lead DRAA with focus, energy, and passionate commitment to DRAA’s mission. A California native and committed community leader in Contra Costa County and the greater East Bay, Baker first served on DRAA’s Board of Directors from 2011 to 2014, after serving on the On Broadway Gala Event Committee. Baker then served in the Legislature for four years, representing District 16’s East Bay communities, including Walnut Creek and much of Contra Costa County. During her legislative tenure, Baker remained closely connected with DRAA as an active and supportive Trustee.

DRAA’s mission is to provide high-quality, professional arts experiences to as many people as possible, especially young students from under-resourced schools through the Arts Access School Time Program. As an active parent in local school leadership positions and education leader in the legislature, Baker understands the important role the arts play in the lives of students and their families. Her own children, now teenagers, have attended performances and festivals at the Leshler Center for the Arts since they were toddlers, and were present at both inaugurations of the Jazz Series and the Chevron Family Theatre Festival.

*“The DRAA enriches the quality of life in the East Bay through our investment in excellent programming and educational outreach to students and families. I am honored and excited to return to the Board as DRAA’s President.” – Catharine Baker*

Between her professional experience as Of Counsel at Hoge Fenton Jones & Appel law firm in Pleasanton and her proven regional leadership as a member of the California State Assembly, Baker brings a unique skillset to the DRAA Board. Under her direction, DRAA will reach new levels of success. With an emphasis on innovation, inclusivity, and quality, Baker’s primary goal is to support exciting new opportunities for the benefit of the broader region as DRAA enters the 30th anniversary of the Leshler Center for the Arts in 2020.



Catharine pictured with husband Dan Baker at DRAA’s On Broadway Gala 2018.

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**Diablo Regional Arts Association (DRAA)** is the nonprofit partner of the Leshler Center for the Arts (LCA). DRAA enriches the lives of thousands of East Bay residents every year by raising funds to support the full spectrum of arts at the Leshler Center including drama, musical theatre, dance, opera, music, and the visual arts. In addition, through its Arts Access School Time Program, DRAA is dedicated to providing families, children, seniors, educators and underserved or at-risk individuals the opportunity to experience the arts. Learn more at [www.draa.org](http://www.draa.org) or follow DRAA on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#): @DRAAattheLCA.