

# School of Arts & Culture

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## Mexican Heritage Plaza

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**Location:** Mexican Heritage Plaza Theater  
1700 Alum Rock Ave., San José, CA 95116

**Date:** Wednesday, August 31, 2022

**Time:** 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. (doors open at 4:30 p.m.)

**\*\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE \*\*\***

### **Cindy Chavez and Matt Mahan to join mayoral forum in East San José**

EAST SAN JOSÉ, CA – The San Jose creative sector is hosting a mayoral forum from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on Wednesday, August 31, at the Mexican Heritage Plaza (La Plaza). The forum, co-hosted by the [School of Arts and Culture at MHP](#), [Silicon Valley African Film Festival](#), [MACLA](#), [San Jose Jazz](#), and [San Jose Taiko](#), will allow November runoff candidates, Santa Clara County Supervisor Cindy Chavez and San Jose City Councilmember Matt Mahan, to speak about their platforms, and to answer various prompts and audience questions.

This unique forum will focus on issues that directly affect the arts and culture communities in San Jose. Unlike other forums or debates, this event will allow Mahan and Chavez to let the community know where they fall on issues affecting artists, creatives, culture bearers, and the arts and culture sector as a whole. The forum also looks to build a bridge with our future mayor and our diverse constituents and communities. We invite everyone to learn more about how each of the candidates will leverage the power of the arts and cultural sector to make a better San Jose. Members of the public will also have the opportunity to ask both mayoral candidates questions through a brief Q&A session. This forum will be moderated by Chike Nwoffiah, founder and executive director of Silicon Valley African Film Festival and recent recipient of San Jose's Cornerstone of the Arts Award.

This is an indoors event and masks are highly encouraged, but not required. Light snacks and beverages will be served in the Theater Lobby.

Residents took to the polls on June 7 for San Jose's mayoral election. "The first round of results showed Chavez with about 40% of votes, compared to Mahan's 32%. Third-place finisher Dev Davis, also a city councilmember, trailed Mahan by some 22 points," [according to KQED](#).

## **About the Candidates**

### **Cindy Chavez**

As a mother and former Vice Mayor, Cindy Chavez has the values and experience to take on the toughest challenges facing San Jose families. As County Supervisor, she championed affordable housing by authoring Measure A — 4,400 new affordable homes are now built or in the pipeline. Working with nonprofits, they relocated over 14,000 homeless people off the streets and into safe housing. They believe we can end family homelessness by 2025.

Chavez is running for Mayor to improve the quality of life. Working with police officers and communities, she believes we can make San Jose the safest big city in America. She'll tackle the affordable housing crisis, homelessness, rising crime, climate change and inequality with passion and experience.

### **Matt Mahan**

Matt Mahan is a new member of the San Jose City Council. He comes from the business world, where he founded and grew companies dedicated to empowering communities and holding the government accountable. He also built tools millions of Americans are using to demand radical transparency from their elected officials and to hold them accountable at the ballot box.

In 2020, Matt ran successfully for city council — pledging to give the government “a wake-up call.” After Matt took office he saw just how bad the problem really is. Matt saw how all too often government doesn't work for the people — with little accountability, built in inefficiencies, and almost no incentive to do better. Matt's campaign is about requiring accountability, efficiency and innovation. It is about demanding common sense.

## **About the School of Arts and Culture at MHP**

The School of Arts and Culture at MHP (SOAC) is a vibrant cultural institution in East San José. Founded in 2011, SOAC activates a vital local asset – the Mexican Heritage Plaza (La Plaza), a 6-acre, city-owned facility with an expansive plaza and theater. Annually, La Plaza hosts more than 150,000 people through its core programming. Its mission is to catalyze creativity and empower community. They do this by uplifting East San José's rich diversity through authentic place keeping and relevant multicultural productions.

## **About Kooltura Marketing**

Kooltura Marketing specializes in multicultural marketing, helping clients reach audiences of a specific ethnicity, culture, and subculture through a grassroots approach strategy.