

September 14, 1999

Re: IO-99-163

You inquired whether employees of organizations that receive grants from the Cultural Arts Foundation can continue to serve on the board of trustees of the foundation. As you indicated, the Cultural Arts Foundation is a private non-profit organization that receives an annual grant from the county government. Since the CAF is not specifically listed in the Publics Ethics Law, it is my opinion that your organization is not subject to the terms of the law. The ethics commission has recommended that the CAF be expressly made subject to the ethics law in proposed amendments to Article 9 of the County Code, but unless and until these recommendations are enacted into law, I cannot provide you with advice on any possible conflict of interest issues that may arise on your board.

Your board may decide to develop its own ethical policies to avoid issues of self-dealing and other conflicts of interest. In that case, I will be happy to assist you in that effort.

Thank you for your inquiry.

Sincerely,

Betsy K. Dawson  
Executive Director

BKD:vlj