

**THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
REGENTS COMMUNICATION**

ACTION REQUEST

Subject: Regental Action Required Under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute

Action Requested: Authorization for the University to transact with Julie Cruz Studio (University of Michigan Employee, Julie Cruz, Owner).

Background:

The University of Michigan Health Behavior Health Equity department seeks approval to transact with Julie Cruz Studio for visual storytelling for a duration of one day, consisting of 1 hour and 30 minutes at a total cost not to exceed \$600.

The proposed contract falls under the State of Michigan Conflict of Interest Statute, as Julie Cruz is employed by the University as an Intermittent Lecturer with the School of Information department and would be a party to the contract as the owner of Julie Cruz Studio.

However, the Statute allows the university to enter into such contracts if the following conditions are met:

- a) The public servant promptly discloses any pecuniary interest in the contract to the official body that has the power to approve the purchase, which disclosure shall be a matter of record in its official proceedings.
- b) The purchase is approved by a vote of not less than 2/3 of the full membership of the approving body in open session without the vote of the public servant making the disclosure.
- c) The official body discloses the following summary information in its official minutes:
 - i) The name of each party involved in the contract.
 - ii) The terms of the purchase, including duration, financial consideration between the parties, facilities or services of the public entity included in the purchase, and the nature and degree of assignment of employees of the public entity for fulfillment of the purchase.
 - iii) The nature of any pecuniary interest.

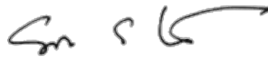
The following information is provided in compliance with the statutory requirements contained in Section (c) above:

- i) The parties to the contract are the Regents of the University of Michigan and its Health Behavior Health Equity, and Julie Cruz Studio.
- ii) The contract is for visual storytelling for a duration of one day, consisting of 1 hour and 30 minutes at a total cost not to exceed \$600. Julie Cruz Studio will supply the necessary resources and personnel to fulfill this contract. The remaining base contract terms and conditions are typical of those used in Procurement Services standard templates for other similar contracts entered into by the Regents.
- iii) The pecuniary interest arises from the fact that University of Michigan employee, Julie Cruz, is the owner of the Julie Cruz Studio for Visual Storytelling.

Julie Cruz has met state law requirements with the disclosure of her pecuniary interest and formal appointment arrangements with the University of Michigan. Requirements, if any, that may be applicable by the supervisor of Julie Cruz under the Health Behavior Health Equity or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee's procedures are separately analyzed and managed.

We recommend that the Board of Regents approve the contract between the University of Michigan and Julie Cruz Studio, subject to requirements, if any, that the supervisor of Julie Cruz or the Health Behavior Health Equity department, or OVPR's Conflict of Interest Committee may impose.

Respectfully submitted,



Geoffrey S. Chatas
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

September 2025