



To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Councilmember Shoshana O'Keefe (Author), Councilmember Igor Tregub (Co-Sponsor), Mayor Adena Ishii (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Terry Taplin (Co-Sponsor)
 Subject: Make Music Day: Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds to the General Fund and Grant of Such Funds

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution approving the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$500 per Councilmember from the discretionary office budgets of any Councilmembers who would like to contribute – including \$500 from Councilmember Shoshana O'Keefe, \$250 from Councilmember Igor Tregub, and \$250 from Mayor Adena Ishii – to the Downtown Berkeley Association to support Berkeley's first annual Make Music Day on June 21, 2026, with funds relinquished to the City's general fund for this purpose.

BACKGROUND

[Make Music Day](#) or Fête de la Musique is a worldwide celebration of music. Launched in France in 1982 as a Ministry of Culture initiative, the celebration has spread to over 2,000 cities across dozens of countries, including the United States, Mexico, Germany, Japan, India, Australia, Peru, Brazil, Canada, Nigeria, the United Kingdom, and more.

The event is open to everyone who wants to participate, and routinely brings people together in parks, streets, plazas, porches, and balconies to share in the love of music. Held on the same day across the globe, the celebration encourages musicians of all levels to participate. Unlike traditional concerts or festivals, what makes Make Music Day unique is the fact that it's completely free and open to the public.

In France, the event enjoys broad participation, with almost 11% of French people having played an instrument or sung in public for Make Music Day and 64% of the country coming out each year to listen. On June 21, 2025, 147 U.S. cities organized 5,471 free concerts in Chattanooga TN, Fullerton CA, Kansas City MO, Madison WI, Montclair NJ, New York NY, Salem OR, San Jose CA, and Berkeley's neighboring city, Oakland CA – all on a single day.

Managed by the Downtown Berkeley Association (DBA) in partnership with Visit Berkeley, Make Music Day is a citywide celebration of live music held every year. Artists, music lovers, and local

spaces come together to turn parks, sidewalks, businesses, and public places across Berkeley into one big stage, showcasing performances and participatory music for all ages and genres.

The City of Berkeley has a long history of nurturing and supporting cultural and musical expression. This event provides an opportunity for community members to connect, meet their neighbors, and enjoy free, widespread outdoor musical performances across the city. As the City continues to rebound from the pandemic, this event provides a much needed opportunity to liven up its downtown and commercial districts. Funding from this item will cover the Make Music Day's membership dues, and expenses related to promotion and organization of the event.

This year, the worldwide Make Music Day will be held on the summer solstice on June 21, 2026.

FISCAL IMPACTS

No General Fund impact.

CONTACT

Councilmember Shoshana O'Keefe, sokeefe@berkeleyca.gov

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

WHEREAS, Make Music Day is a worldwide celebration of Music; and

WHEREAS, the annual, free global event originated in France in 1982 and enjoys widespread participation; and

WHEREAS, almost 11% of French people have played an instrument or sung in public for Make Music Day and 64% of the country has come out each year to listen; and

WHEREAS, dozens of countries including the United States, Mexico, Germany, Japan, India, Australia, Peru, Brazil, Canada, Nigeria, the United Kingdom, and more participate in the celebration; and

WHEREAS, the event has spread to the United States and in 2025, 147 U.S. cities organized 5,471 free concerts in Chattanooga TN, Fullerton CA, Kansas City MO, Madison WI, Montclair NJ, New York NY, Salem OR, San Jose CA, and Oakland CA – all on a single day; and

WHEREAS, this year's worldwide Make Music Day will be held on the summer solstice on June 21, 2026;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that funds relinquished by the Councilmembers from their Council Office Budgets, up to \$500 per office, shall be granted to the Downtown Berkeley Association to support Berkeley's inaugural Make Music Day celebration.

