



BERKELEY CITY COUNCILMEMBER  
**TERRY TAPLÍN**  
DISTRICT 2

**14**

CONSENT CALENDAR  
April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Terry Taplin

Subject: Kala Art 2026: Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds from General Funds and Grant of Such Funds

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution approving the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$500 per Councilmember, including \$500 from Councilmember Taplin, to support Art Institute 2026.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

No General Fund impacts. Up to \$500 is available from contributing Councilmember's Council Office Budget discretionary accounts.

BACKGROUND

Founded in 1974, by Archana Horsting and Yuzo Nakano, as an international residency program rooted in the local community and a forum for ideas, Kala Art Institute encourages artistic experimentation. Over four decades -- from a garage studio with one etching press and a single hot plate to a 15,200 sq. ft. facility in the historic West Berkeley Heinz building -- Kala has grown steadily in the breadth of its offerings and in the size of its operation, yet remains true to its mission to be a workshop of ideas and to engage the community through exhibitions, education, and public programs.

In 2009, Kala dynamically expanded its facility providing new opportunities for artists and the community. With improved studios, project rooms, classrooms, and a 2,200 sq. ft. light-filled gallery with an accessible street level location, Kala is working to maximize its capacity to serve the community as a vital center for artistic experimentation. Kala serves 35,000 individuals yearly through artist residencies, exhibitions, and community workshops. In addition, Kala's Artists-in-Schools program provides curriculum-based visual arts education to children in neighboring public schools in Berkeley, Emeryville, and Oakland. Overall, their constituents range from 5 to 95 years old and represent a diverse group of participants including local residents, visiting artists from all state, country, and abroad -- representing an international spectrum of backgrounds and experience. Bay Area artists represent 85% of participants in Kala's artist residencies.

Kala Art Institute's mission is to help artists sustain their creative work overtime through its Artist-in-Residence and Fellowship Programs, and to engage the community through exhibitions, public programs, and education.

The heart of Kala's mission as a vital California art-making hub is supporting artists and engaging the community. Kala offers professional facilities to those working in and across print and digital media, new media, and performance. Artists at Kala are encouraged to work across disciplines, produce innovative artwork of the highest quality, and are given total freedom to realize their artistic vision using media that span the Gutenberg to digital eras. Kala offers access to equipment, time, and space to cultivate creative projects. Kala's studios provide tools for printmaking, photography, video, installation, and digital media. Kala fosters a fresh approach to experimentation, as artists investigate the interface of digital work, work made by hand, work made in the studio, performance-based work that engages the community and everything in between. A spirit of exchange and education is nurtured through all Kala's community programs.

Kala's creative community builds bridges between the intense art-making environment of the Kala studios, located in the historic Heinz ketchup factory in Berkeley and life outside the studio in Kala's immediate neighborhood and far beyond. Additionally, Kala is committed to offering quality art education to the general public and public school children through its on-site and online program of classes and workshops, summer programs and its Artists-in-Schools program, established in 1991, providing multiple week artist-led instruction to students in neighboring East Bay public schools.

Celebrating Kala's 52nd year, Art Kala 2026 brings together Kala's creative community and features the inventive and meaningful art being made in the Bay Area. Art Kala 52nd Anniversary Party with Honorary Auction Chair Doree Friedman will take place April 25th 2026, honoring Gale Antokal, Cathy Lu, and Adia Millett. Art Kala 52nd Anniversary Party will take place at: Kala Gallery, 2990 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley, California 94702.

More information can be found at: <http://www.kala.org/gallery/spring-gala-and-auction/>.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

This item is consistent with the city's vision on sustainability.

#### CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Terry Taplin, Council District 2 - 510-981-7120

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF SURPLUS FUNDS FROM THE OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNTS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS FOR A GRANT TO PROVIDE PUBLIC SERVICES FOR A MUNICIPAL PUBLIC PURPOSE

WHEREAS, Councilmember Taplin has surplus funds in his office expenditure account (budget code 011-11-102-100-0000-000-411); and

WHEREAS, a private 501(c)(3) non-profit tax-exempt corporation Kala Arts Institute seeks funds to support their continued fundraising; and

WHEREAS, Kala Art Institute is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping artists sustain their creative work overtime through its Artist-in-Residence and Fellowship Programs, and to engaging the community through exhibitions, public programs, and education; and

WHEREAS, since 1974, Kala has grown steadily in the breadth of its offerings and in the size of its operation, yet remains true to its mission to be a workshop of ideas and to engage the community through exhibitions, education, and public programs; and

WHEREAS, Kala serves 35,000 individuals yearly through artist residencies, exhibitions, and community workshops, and through its Artists-in-Schools program provides curriculum-based visual arts education to children in neighboring public schools in Berkeley, Emeryville, and Oakland; and

WHEREAS, Kala's constituents range from 5 to 95 years old and represent a diverse group of participants including local residents, visiting artists from all state, country, and abroad – representing an international spectrum of backgrounds and experience – with Bay Area artists representing 85% of participants in Kala's artist residencies; and

WHEREAS, Art Kala 2025 brings together Kala's creative community and features the inventive and meaningful art being made in the Bay Area, honoring Gale Antokal, Cathy Lu, and Adia Millett; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that funds relinquished by \$500 from Councilmember Taplin and any funds, up to \$500 per Council Office Budget, from the Mayor and other Councilmembers shall be granted to the Kala Art Institute to support Art Kala 2026 and to celebrate Kala's 52nd year helping artists sustain their creative work in Berkeley and beyond.

