



BERKELEY CITY COUNCILMEMBER
TERRY TAPLIN
 DISTRICT 2

CONSENT CALENDAR
 April 28th, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Terry Taplin

Subject: Luna Dance Creativity: 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 Luna's May Day Gathering and Bazaar event.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

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

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In the past year, Luna Dance served 130 families; 1,894 teachers, artists, and caregivers; and nearly 29,000 students, including more than 4,000 young people with disabilities. Programs reached twelve public school districts, six independent schools, and three institutions of higher education, across eleven counties nationwide, reflecting both the depth and growing national reach of Luna's work.

Luna's mission is to bring creativity, equity, and community to every child's life through dance. Grounded in its Theory of Change—*children embody the future, dance cultivates creativity, and policy centers equity*—Luna asks: what becomes possible when we commit to advancing children's freedom?

At the heart of their work is collective action. Through partnerships with artists, educators, caregivers, schools, and social service networks, Luna expands access to high-quality dance education, especially for communities historically and systemically excluded from the arts.

Luna's creativity-based pedagogy continues to integrate research and practice in play theory, neuroscience, child development, and anti-bias, culturally responsive teaching.

BACKGROUND

April 28th, 2026

Luna Dance & Creative was founded in Oakland, California, on International Women's Day, March 8th, 1992. Since then, they have grown from a local community dance center with a strong children's program, to a nationally recognized organization that ignites the field of dance education with expectations of increased creativity, equity, and inclusion. Luna Dance's programs bring dance to more than 30,000 children and 400 artists, teachers, and social service providers each year. They work together to develop future choreographers, leaders, and visionaries.

Studio Lab-Kids was their first program, and it remains the only choreography-centered children's dance program in California. Since purchasing and renovating their Berkeley space in 2022, Studio Lab has expanded to serve artists (Studio Lab-Artists) by providing rehearsal space and piloting residency programs. Studio Lab-Community offers public education through showcasing artistic research and scholarship in dynamic ways that challenge the limitations of academia.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

None.

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 Luna Dance Creativity seeks funds in the amount of \$500 to support their continued fundraising; and

WHEREAS, the provision of such services would fulfill the following municipal public purpose: continuing the education of Berkeley residents in acts of self-expression and the continue teaching observation, inquiry, accessibility, and interconnectivity;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that funds relinquished by the Mayor and Councilmembers from their Council Office Budget up to \$500 amount per office shall be granted to Luna Dance Creativity to support Luna's May Day Gathering and Bazaar event.

