



CONSENT CALENDAR

October 27, 2026

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Ben Bartlett

Subject: Berkeley Flea Market End-of-the-Season Fall Festival/Halloween Celebration Event:
Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds to General Fund and Grant of Such
Funds

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution approving the expenditure of funds, including \$600 from Councilmember Ben Bartlett, for the End-of-the-Season Fall Festival / Halloween Celebration of the South Berkeley Flea Market at Ashby BART, organized by Community Services United, a 501(c)3, with funds relinquished to the City's General Fund for this purpose from the discretionary council office budget of Councilmember Bartlett and any other Councilmembers who would like to contribute.

CURRENT SITUATION:

The South Berkeley Flea Market (BFM), organized by Community Services United, is celebrating the Harvest Day on October 24, 2026, as a Fall Festival and on October 31, 2026, as a Halloween Celebration. Celebrating the season while shopping with local vendors and discovering unique finds. The two events also mark the End-of-Season celebration for the Flea Market, as the Flea Market will hold the event of the Season outdoors due to expected cold weather (The Flea Market expects to remain open every weekend year-round except days that have heavy rain and/or wind.)

October 24th, the Fall Event is BFM's first annual food festival! The purpose of this event will be to highlight local growers and farmers' produce with live music and entertainment. Madam President will be serving \$5 healthy meals of succotash and brown rice bowls, fresh-cut fruit bowls, and bottled water. Participants will include Ecology Center's Farmer's Market, The Garden Project, and Soul Flower Farm as local growers. Entertainment will include Carah H, soft line dance instructor, Kazemde's Jazz Band, and International DJ Al.

On October 31st, BFM will host its first annual Halloween Celebration! The purpose of this event will be to distribute candy and wellness snacks for South and West Berkeley community children and families. Participants will include consumer traffic. Entertainment will include International DJ Al. Vendors will have costumes, fashion clothing, and trinkets for your shopping convenience and fun for all!

BACKGROUND:

The Berkeley Flea Market emerged in the early 1970s in Berkeley, California, during a period marked by social activism, cultural expression, and economic experimentation. As the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system expanded, and the land surrounding the Ashby BART Station became an informal gathering place for artists, craftspeople, musicians, and small entrepreneurs. What began as a grassroots vending activity evolved into a recognized community market.

By the 1980s and 1990s, the Berkeley Flea Market had become a major weekend destination in the East Bay. It was known for its diversity of vendors offering handmade goods, vintage items, global foods, and art rooted in African, African American, Caribbean, and diasporic traditions. Live music, spoken words, and cultural exchange were integral to the market, establishing it as both a commercial and cultural institution. In this context, the Berkeley Flea Market became a community-based economic response, offering self-employment and cultural space near transit-adjacent land.

The purpose of the Harvest Day event is to introduce underserved communities to agricultural production. The Halloween Celebration will reward South Berkeley resident households with sweet treats and outdoor entertainment.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No negative impact.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

No General Fund impact; \$600 is available from Councilmember Ben Bartlett's discretionary office budget of Councilmember Ben Bartlett.

CONTACT PERSON:

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ATTACHMENT:

1. Event Flyer
2. Resolution to authorize the expenditure of surplus funds added.

Attachment 1:



Attachment 2:

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

AUTHORIZE 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 Bartlett has surplus funds in his office expenditure account; and

WHEREAS, a California non-profit tax-exempt corporation, Community Services United, will receive the funds; and

WHEREAS, the provision of such services would fulfill the following municipal public purpose: Community Services United promotes greater societal cohesiveness and well-being by educating and involving the community-at-large in historical, family, and cultural activities; and

WHEREAS, Community Services United hosts various activities, including monthly celebrations and seasonal cultural events such as Art Walk, Music at the Market, Job Fair at the Market, and End-of-the-Season Fall Festival / Halloween Celebration; and

WHEREAS, cultural celebrations are critical to the social and spiritual unity of our community, and are integrated into Community Services United events; and

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, of an amount to be determined by each Councilmember, shall be granted to Community Services United.