



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
February 13, 2024

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Eleanor Hollander, Economic Development Manager

Subject: Grant Application: National Endowment for the Arts Grant for up to \$150,000

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or her designee to submit a grant application to the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA) to receive up to \$150,000 for a Civic Arts grant program totaling \$300,000 to be regranted to nonprofit organizations for arts and cultural programming in the City of Berkeley in Fiscal Year 2026; to accept the grant if awarded; and to execute any resulting grant agreements and any amendments.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The NEA requires a one-to-one match for this grant request of up to \$150,000 if awarded, which would be funded by the General Fund (Fund 011) in Fiscal Year 2026. Therefore, if awarded the full amount requested from the NEA, the City would receive \$150,000 in federal funds to combine with the required City match of \$150,000 to support a Civic Arts grant program totaling \$300,000 to be expended in FY26; and appropriated in FY25. These federal grant funds would enable the City of Berkeley to leverage local funds to provide increased support for arts and cultural activities to benefit Berkeley residents.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In November 2023, the City of Berkeley was awarded a \$30,000 grant from the NEA to launch a new Civic Arts grant program (the *Arts Program Grants*) totaling \$60,000 for Fiscal Year 2025, designed to support the following types of arts and cultural programming in the City of Berkeley:

- Nonprofit (not-art specific) organizations located in the City of Berkeley wishing to produce arts/cultural programming in the City of Berkeley led by a partnering arts organization or teaching artist; or
- Arts nonprofit organizations located in the Greater Bay Area (outside of Berkeley) wishing to produce arts/cultural programming taking place in the City of Berkeley.

The *Arts Program Grants* category aims to (1) foster cross-sector collaborations and opportunities for non-arts organizations to hire arts and cultural workers or partner with Berkeley-based arts organizations for programming, and (2) offer the Berkeley community the opportunity to engage in Greater Bay Area programming offered by non-Berkeley arts organizations taking place in Berkeley. Awards will be up to \$5,000 each for eligible program-related expenses. The review criteria for this new grant category are: Program Narrative and Timeline (25%), Artistic Merit and Artistic Excellence (25%), Community Engagement and Impact (25%), and Cultural Equity (25%).

The NEA grant application for \$150,000 aims to continue the new Civic Arts Grants funding category – the *Arts Program Grants* – for a second year, and to increase the amount of federal funding leveraged to bolster arts investment in Berkeley. If funded by the NEA, this second year of the *Arts Program Grants* would be administered in conjunction with the FY26 Civic Arts Grants process.

BACKGROUND

Currently, the Civic Arts program administers an annual grants budget of approximately \$700,000 from the City's General Fund (011) to provide grants in three distinct categories: 1) Individual Artist Projects; 2) Community Festivals, and 3) General Operating Support. In Fiscal Year 2024, the City allocated additional funding to establish a fourth category – *Capital Project Grants* – with \$300,000 from the General Fund, which is currently being administered.

In order to better support a wide range of arts and cultural activities in Berkeley and to increase equitable access to artistic expression and creativity, Civic Arts staff analyzed data from previous Civic Arts grant cycles and identified a gap in the current grant opportunities. Based upon this analysis, Staff sought funding from the NEA to pilot an *Arts Program Grants* category aimed at addressing the two types of arts programming that have historically not been eligible for Civic Arts Grants funding:

1. Berkeley-based non-arts nonprofit organizations seeking funding for their current arts programming, or wishing to start arts programming.
2. Arts organizations in the Greater Bay Area wishing to do programming in Berkeley, especially those organizations in neighboring communities who already have strong partnerships with Berkeley-based arts facilities.

Approval for the first NEA grant application in accordance with the city's administrative regulation (AR 1.17) was granted February 7, 2023. The City was notified of the award from the NEA on November 9, 2023 and is administering the new category in conjunction with FY25 Civic Arts Grants process. A decision of this current application for \$150,000 (to be submitted in late February 2024) is anticipated by November of 2024.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no identifiable environmental effects, climate impacts, or sustainability opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Accepting federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts would help the City accomplish one of the five high-level goals articulated in The City of Berkeley's Arts and Culture Plan (2018-2027): "**Increase Investment in a Vibrant Arts Community, Strengthen and support Berkeley's inclusive and culturally rich arts sector by expanding funding and marketing opportunities for a broader array of arts organizations.**"

Additionally, applying for these funds aligns with the City of Berkeley's fiscal policy to leverage City funds to secure matching State and Federal resources for the City of Berkeley.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

No alternatives were considered.

CONTACT PERSON

Hilary Amnah, Civic Arts, Office of Economic Development, 510-981-7539

Attachment:

1: Resolution

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

GRANT APPLICATION: REQUESTING \$150,000 FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS (NEA) TO SUPPORT ACCESS TO ARTS AND CULTURAL PROGRAMMING IN THE CITY OF BERKELEY BY CONTINUING THE CIVIC ARTS GRANTS PROGRAM FUNDING CATEGORY KNOWN AS THE *ARTS PROGRAM GRANTS*.

WHEREAS, the *Arts and Culture Plan for the City of Berkeley (2017-18)* includes the goal of increasing investment in a vibrant arts community by expanding funding and marketing opportunities for a broader array of arts organizations; and

WHEREAS, the Civic Arts Program has identified a gap in its current grant program offerings through data analysis, and community feedback on program-based funding; and

WHEREAS, an *Arts Program Grant* category supports the City's ability to create increased access to arts and cultural programming taking place in Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, federal funding from the National Endowment for the Arts is available to local arts agencies for sub-granting purposes; and

WHEREAS, the City is implementing a pilot of the *Arts Program Grant* in Fiscal Year 2025 with \$30,000 in matching funds from the NEA for a total grant program amount of \$60,000; and

WHEREAS, to continue a second year of the *Arts Program Grant* category in Fiscal Year 2026 with an increased total grant program amount of \$300,000 to be supported with \$150,000 in matching funds from the NEA; and

WHEREAS, the City has identified the required match of \$150,000 in the General Fund (Fund 011) for Fiscal Year 2026 to be appropriated in FY25; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or her designee is authorized to submit a grant application to the National Endowment for the Arts to receive up to \$150,000 for the above purpose; accept the grant if awarded; and execute any resultant agreements and amendments.