



# URGENT ITEM AGENDA MATERIAL

Government Code Section 54954.2(b)  
Rules of Procedure Chapter III.C.5

**THIS ITEM IS NOT YET AGENDIZED AND MAY OR MAY NOT BE ACCEPTED FOR THE AGENDA AS A LATE ITEM, SUBJECT TO THE CITY COUNCIL'S DISCRETION ACCORDING TO BROWN ACT RULES**

**Meeting Date: March 26, 2024**

**Item Description: Kala Art Institute 2024 Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds to General Fund and Grant of Such Funds**

This item is submitted pursuant to the provision checked below:

- Emergency Situation (54954.2(b)(1) - majority vote required)  
*Determination by a majority vote of the legislative body that an emergency situation exists, as defined in Section 54956.5.*
- Immediate Action Required (54954.2(b)(2) - two-thirds vote required)  
*There is a need to take immediate action and the need for action came to the attention of the local agency subsequent to the agenda for this meeting being posted.*

Once the item is added to the agenda (Consent or Action) it must be passed by the standard required vote threshold (majority, two-thirds, or 7/9).

**Facts supporting the addition of the item to the agenda under Section 54954.2(b) and Chapter III.C.5 of the Rules of Procedure:**

**As a result of the City Council's Spring recess, and the need for Council to take action on this item prior to KALA's event on Saturday April 27, this item is being submitted to the March 26<sup>th</sup> meeting.**

March 26, 2024



Sophie Hahn  
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To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Councilmember Sophie Hahn (Author) and Councilmember Terry Taplin (Co-Sponsor)  
Subject: Kala Art Institute 2024 Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds to General Fund 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 Hahn and \$500 from Councilmember Taplin, to the Kala Art Institute, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, to support Art Kala 2024, an exhibition, auction, and benefit to support Kala's artistic, cultural, and educational programs, with funds relinquished to the City's general fund for this purpose from the discretionary Council office budgets of Councilmembers Hahn and Taplin, and from any other Councilmembers who would like to contribute.

### 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 and visiting artists from all states and countries -- 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 over time 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 50th year, Art Kala 2024 brings together Kala's creative community and features the inventive and meaningful art being made in the Bay Area. Art Kala 2024 with Honorary Auction Chairs Squeak Carnwath and Richard Nagler will open the auction benefit exhibition on March 21st with a free, family friendly preview party and will close the exhibition on April 27th with a festive closing party with food, drinks, music, a live auction and a program honoring three local artists David Huffman, Emily Payne, and Rupy C. Tut. Art Kala 2024 will take place at: Kala Gallery, 2990 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley, California 94702. All proceeds support Kala's arts education and community arts programs.

More information can be found at: <http://www.kala.org/exhibition/kala-50-art-auction-benefit-exhibition/>.

#### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No environmental impacts.

#### FISCAL IMPACTS

A total of up to \$4,500 from Councilmembers' discretionary budgets.

#### CONTACT

Councilmember Sophie Hahn, (510) 981-7150

Attachments: Resolution

RESOLUTION #####-N.S.

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

WHEREAS, Kala Art Institute is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping artists sustain their creative work over time 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 and visiting artists from all states and countries – 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 2024 brings together Kala's creative community and features inventive and meaningful art being made in the Bay Area, honoring David Huffman, Emily Payne, and Rupy C. Tut.

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 per office, including \$500 from the office of Councilmember Hahn and \$500 from the office of Councilmember Taplin, shall be granted to the Kala Art Institute to support Art Kala 2024 and to celebrate Kala's 50th year of sustaining the creative work of Berkeley artists.