



Office of the Mayor

CONSENT CALENDAR
May 7, 2024

To: Honorable Members of the City Council
 From: Mayor Jesse Arreguín
 Subject: Budget Referral: Cesar Chavez Solar Calendar Maintenance

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the Fiscal Year (FY) 2025-2026 budget process to allocate \$10,000 to the Kala Art Institute, the fiscal sponsor for the Chavez/Huerta Tribute Site, for the continued purpose of employing grounds keepers and providing the resources needed for the maintenance of the Cesar Chavez/Dolores Huerta Solar Calendar Site until May/June 2026.

BACKGROUND

The Chavez/Huerta Tribute Site¹, located at Cesar Chavez Park along Spinnaker Way, is centered around a lush green space overlooking the Bay Area. Instead of a single statue or monument for the farmworker and labor organizer by which the park is named after, the site has intentionally developed as a urban solar/lunar calendar, along with a quartet of stones engraved with the four virtues of the Farmworkers Movement: Determination, Courage, Hope, and Tolerance. The site draws from design concepts in art, astronomy, and architecture found at ancient and indigenous observatory sites from around the world. The site seeks to promote an understanding of the Rhythm of the Seasons, the work, life, and values of Cesar E. Chavez and Dolores Huerta, provide an outdoor classroom to study science, math, and culture, and create a space for reflection and peace along the Berkeley shoreline. The site also contains a virtual tour, which can be activated using your mobile device, and a physical, self-explanatory sign to assist visitors with utilizing the solar calendar and position of stones to understand its relationship to solstice and equinox.

While the Berkeley Parks Department does general maintenance and landscaping of Cesar Chavez Park, additional resources are needed to remove vegetation and maintain the site using hand crews. The Parks Department does not have the resources to do this additional work, so supplemental funding is needed.

¹ <https://chavezpark.org/cesar-chavez-memorial-solar-calendar/>

To assist with the maintenance of the site, on July 11, 2023, Council passed a resolution allocating \$5,000 from the Mayor's and Councilmembers discretionary office budgets to fund maintenance. The Cesar Chavez Solar Calendar Project, the

community group which helped develop the solar calendar, is requesting additional resources to maintain the site over the next two years. The funding would go towards fees associated with employing gardeners, hauling soil, conducting stone replacement, composting goods, grounds maintenance, upgrading signage, and paying the Kala Art Institute a fiscal agent fee, supplying them with the funds to sustain the continued efforts. The current \$5,000 provides maintenance services completed in October/November 2023 and May/June 2024, with the additional \$10,000 covering services completed in October/November 2024 and May/June 2025.²

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

\$10,000 from the City's General Fund as part of the 2025/2026 biennial budget process.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

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

CONTACT PERSON

Mayor Jesse Arreguín

510-981-7100

Anthony Rodriguez, Senior Legislative Assistant

Attachments:

- 1: Resolution passed on July 14, 2023 for Council Expenditures.

² The exact month is determined by the amount of rain experienced at the site.

RESOLUTION NO. 70,955-N.S.

AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF SURPLUS FUNDS FROM THE OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNTS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS FOR FUNDING TOWARDS THE MAINTENANCE OF THE CHAVEZ/HUERTA TRIBUTE SITE, A PUBLIC SERVICE FOR A MUNICIPAL PUBLIC PURPOSE

WHEREAS, Mayor Jesse Arreguin has discretionary funds in their office expenditure account; and

WHEREAS, Councilmember Rashi Kesarwani has discretionary funds in their office expenditure account; and

WHEREAS, Councilmember Terry Taplin has discretionary funds in their office expenditure account; and

WHEREAS, Councilmember Ben Bartlett has discretionary funds in their office expenditure account; and

WHEREAS, Councilmember Sophie Hahn has discretionary funds in their office expenditure account; and

WHEREAS, Councilmember Susan Wengraf has discretionary funds in their office expenditure account; and

WHEREAS, Councilmember Rigel Robinson has discretionary funds in their office expenditure account; and

WHEREAS, Councilmember Mark Humbert has discretionary funds in their office expenditure account; and

WHEREAS, a California non-profit tax-exempt corporation, the Kala Art Institute, seeks funds in the amount of \$5,000 to provide maintenance and upkeep for the Chavez/Huerta Tribute Site located at the Cesar Chavez Park along Spinnaker Way; and

WHEREAS, the provision of such services would fulfill the following municipal public purpose of bringing communities across the City, including but not limited to Latine, immigrant, astronomy lovers, historians, youth, and civic communities, together to honor the virtues and contribution of Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, and others involved in the Farmworkers Movement.

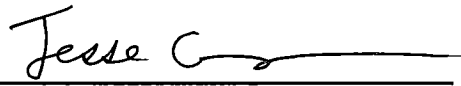
NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that funds relinquished by the Mayor and Councilmembers from their Council Office Budget of up to \$5,000 per office shall be granted to the Kala Art Institute to fund the following services bringing communities across the City, including, but not limited to, Latine, immigrant, astronomy lovers, historians, youth, and civic communities, together to honor the virtues and contribution of Cesar Chavez, Dolores Huerta, and others involved in the Farmworkers Movement.

The foregoing Resolution was adopted by the Berkeley City Council on July 11, 2023 by the following vote:

Ayes: Bartlett, Hahn, Harrison, Humbert, Kesarwani, Robinson, Taplin, Wengraf, and Arreguin.

Noes: None.

Absent: None.



Jesse Arreguin, Mayor

Attest: 

Rose Thomsen, Deputy City Clerk