



Office of the Mayor

CONSENT CALENDAR  
May 21, 2024

To: Members of the City Council  
From: Mayor Jesse Arreguín  
Subject: Budget Referral: Berkeley Youth Alternatives Part-Time Garden Assistant

RECOMMENDATION

Refer \$31,250 to the Fiscal Year 2025-2026 Budget process for Berkeley Youth Alternatives to hire a part-time Garden Assistant.

BACKGROUND

Since 1992, Berkeley Youth Alternatives (BYA) was able to secure resources from the City of Berkeley and private sources to operate and manage the Bancroft Garden, and also provide job training for at-risk community members. In recent years, funding has been limited, and BYA has not been able to hire a full-time Garden Coordinator or even part-time Garden Assistant to assist with these activities. As a consequence, BYA was able to incorporate the garden programming and stewardship into existing workforce contracts using grants from the County of Alameda and delivering nutrition education.

BYA is requesting assistance from the City to support the funding for a part-time Garden Assistant to join the Community Gardeners team at Bancroft Garden. An allocation \$31,250 (\$25,000 wages + \$6,250 [25% benefits]) would allow a team member to oversee the garden, engage youth in programming and job training, and interface with Community Gardeners to coordinate care and services.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

\$31,250 from the City’s General Fund as part of the 2024/2025 biennial budget process.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

There are no identifiable adverse environmental effects associated with the subject of this report. An added Garden Assistant would help with the stewardship of flora and fauna at Bancroft Garden.

CONTACT PERSON

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