



Office of the City Manager

08

CONSENT CALENDAR
January 21, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager
Submitted by: Eleanor Hollander, Economic Development Manager
Subject: Acceptance of a \$40,000 Grant from the National Endowment for the Arts to enhance Civic Arts Grant Programming

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution accepting a \$40,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts (NEA). The grant will be used to support a Civic Arts grant program totaling \$80,000 to be expended in Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26). This will be the second annual implementation of the new program 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 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) to produce arts/cultural programming taking place **in** the City of Berkeley.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The NEA requires a one-to-one match for this grant award of \$40,000, which would be funded by the General Fund (Fund 011) in FY26 resulting in a total of \$80,000 to be expended in FY26 as the second annual implementation of the Arts Programs Grant category administered by civic arts staff in the Office of Economic Development.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In November 2024, the City of Berkeley was awarded a \$40,000 grant from the NEA to to continue implementation for a second year of the new Civic Arts grant program (the Arts Programs Grant) totaling \$80,000 in Fiscal Year 2026. The Arts Programs Grant 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. Grant Awards will be up to \$5,000 each for eligible program-related expenses. The review criteria for the new grant category are: Program Narrative

and Timeline (25%), Artistic Merit and Artistic Excellence (25%), Community Engagement and Impact (25%), and Cultural Equity (25%).

BACKGROUND

Civic Arts staff initially applied for funding from the NEA in 2023 in order to establish a new “Arts Programs Grant” category as a pilot for FY25 to address an identified gap in the Civic Arts Grants offerings and better support a wide range of arts and cultural activities taking place in Berkeley. With an annual budget of approximately \$700,000 from the City's General Fund (011), the Civic Arts Grants Program has historically awarded funding in three distinct categories: 1) Individual Artist Projects; 2) Community Festivals, and 3) General Operating Support. This NEA grant funding allows for the continuation of a fourth Civic Arts Grants funding category – the *Arts Programs Grant*, which will be administered in conjunction with the FY26 Civic Arts Grants process. This is the second year the City of Berkeley has been awarded a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts for sub-granting purposes. Authorization for the NEA grant application in accordance with the City’s administrative regulations was approved by Council on February 13, 2024 (Resolution 71,208–N.S.). After the success of the first year’s *Arts Programs Grant* pilot program, the NEA increased the award amount by \$10,000 (from \$30,000 for FY25 to \$40,000 for FY26).

The *Arts Programs Grant* category allowed Civic Arts to engage twelve new grantees in FY25 with the first year’s NEA award.¹ This federal grant enables the City of Berkeley to leverage local funds to provide increased support for arts and cultural activities to benefit Berkeley residents. The current NEA grant award, plus the required City match, represents a total increase over the historical Civic Arts Grants budget from \$700,000 to \$780,00 (approximately an 11.5% increase).

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, accepting 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.

¹ A complete list of City of Berkeley Civic Arts grantees is available online: <https://berkeleyca.gov/community-recreation/civic-arts/civic-arts-grants> and <https://berkeleyca.gov/sites/default/files/documents/Civic-Arts-Grants-FY24.pdf>.

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ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

No alternatives were considered.

CONTACT PERSON

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

Attachment:

1: Resolution

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

ACCEPTING A \$40,000 GRANT FROM THE NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR THE ARTS (NEA) TO SUPPORT ACCESS TO ARTS AND CULTURAL PROGRAMMING IN THE CITY OF BERKELEY BY CONTINUING THE NEW CIVIC ARTS GRANTS PROGRAM-BASED FUNDING CATEGORY KNOWN AS THE *ARTS PROGRAMS GRANT*.

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 Programs Grant* would support 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 has identified \$40,000 in matching funds in FY26 to use for a new grant program category, the *Arts Programs Grant* of \$80,000 total; and

WHEREAS, the National Endowment for the Arts has awarded a \$40,000 grant for this purpose and these funds will be put into revenue account code 336-21-208-252-0000-000-000-434110.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the \$40,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Arts be accepted to support access to arts and cultural programming in the City of Berkeley by continuing the new civic arts programs grants.