



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
February 25, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Paul Buddenhagen, City Manager
 Submitted by: Eleanor Hollander, Economic Development Manager
 Subject: Grant Application: National Endowment for the Arts Grant (\$150,000)

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or their 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, to accept the grant if awarded; and to execute any resulting grant agreements and any amendments. If received, the funds would support the *Arts Programs Grant* category and would be regranted to nonprofit organizations for arts and cultural programming within the City of Berkeley in Fiscal Year 2027.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

The NEA requires a one-to-one match of City funds for this grant request of up to \$150,000 if awarded in Fiscal Year 2027. 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 the *Arts Programs Grant* category (totaling \$300,000) to be expended in FY27. These federal grant funds would enable the City of Berkeley to leverage local funds to provide increased support for arts and cultural activities within the City of Berkeley.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The City of Berkeley has been awarded funding from the NEA in two consecutive cycles, a \$30,000 award for FY25 and \$40,000 award for FY26, to launch and then support the continuation of the new Civic Arts grant program, known as the *Arts Programs Grant* category. With the success of the second year's application to the NEA, represented by the \$10,000 award increase over the previous year, the maximum amount of \$150,000 is again requested from the NEA to support the continuation of the new Civic Arts Grants funding category – *the Arts Program Grants* – for a third year.

The *Arts Program Grants* aim 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. In FY27, *Arts Program Grant Awards* will be up

to \$5,000 each for successful applicants to cover eligible program-related expenses. If funded by the NEA, this third year of the *Arts Program Grants* would be administered in conjunction with the standard FY27 Civic Arts Grants process.

BACKGROUND

Funding was requested from the NEA in 2023 in order to establish a new “Arts Programs Grant” category 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.

The Civic Arts Grants, have an annual budget of approximately \$700,000 from the City's General Fund (011), and annually the Civic Arts Grants Program awards funding in three distinct categories: 1) Individual Artist Projects; 2) Community Festivals, and 3) General Operating Support. With funding from the NEA along with the local match, the City of Berkeley has established a fourth Civic Arts Grants funding category – the *Arts Programs Grant* – administered in conjunction with the annual Civic Arts Grants process. A decision of this current application for \$150,000 (to be submitted in late February 2025) is anticipated by November of 2025.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no environmental sustainability or climate impacts associated with this recommendation.

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, 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, in 2023, the Civic Arts Program identified a gap in its 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 the second year of the *Arts Program Grants* in Fiscal Year 2026 with \$40,000 in matching funds from the NEA for a total grant program amount of \$80,000; and

WHEREAS, to continue a third year of the *Arts Program Grant* category in Fiscal Year 2027 the grant application will ask for 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 1:1 match of up to \$150,000 in the General Fund and/or the Art(s) Funds for Fiscal Year 2027 to be appropriated in FY27 if the grant is received; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager or their 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.

