



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
June 3, 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: California Arts Council Grant (\$30,000), for the Civic Arts Grant Program General Operating Support Category

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager or their designee to submit a grant application to the California Arts Council (CAC) to receive up to \$30,000 for the Civic Arts grants program (“General Operating Support” category), to accept the grant if awarded; and to execute any resulting grant agreements. If received, the funds would be regranted to Berkeley-based nonprofit and fiscally sponsored arts organizations for general operational support starting in Fiscal Year 2027 (FY27).

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

If awarded the grant for FY27, the CAC requires a one-to-one match of City funds. No additional allocation of funding from the City’s General Fund would be required to receive this state grant funding. The local match would be met with funds already allocated for Civic Arts Grants in FY27 which supports two grant categories: *General Operating Support* and *Individual Artist Project Grants*.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Since Fiscal Year 2018, the City of Berkeley has allocated \$500,000 to the Civic Arts grants program annually from the General Fund to distribute arts grants to Berkeley-based artists and cultural organizations. This allocation of funds has been divided into two grant programs: Individual Artist Projects (for artists) and General Operating Support (for arts organizations). With an increased need for funding for Berkeley’s arts and cultural sector, staff has looked to outside sources for additional funding to re-grant.

If awarded, the state CAC grant funds (of up to \$30,000) would be utilized to augment the *General Operating Support* Civic Arts grant category, bringing the total amount of funding to be granted in that category from \$450,000 to (up to) \$480,000. This would not impact the portion of the Civic Arts Grant allocation that supports the *Individual Artist Project Grants* category (\$50,000). A decision on the grant application for \$30,000 by the CAC is anticipated by September of 2025.

BACKGROUND

The Civic Arts Grants have an annual budget of approximately \$700,000 from the City's General Fund (011). Annually, the Civic Arts Grants Program awards funding in three distinct categories, the General Fund amount allocated to each program is indicated in parenthesis: 1) Individual Artist Projects (\$50,000); 2) Community Festivals (ranges between a baseline budget of \$158,317 to \$200,000 per year), and 3) General Operating Support (\$450,000). Each year Civic Arts awards a greater number of General Operating Support grants utilizing the same budget allocation amount of \$450,000, which results in a decreasing size of individual grant award amounts for Berkeley's arts organizations. Additional funding from the CAC will help offset this trend.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

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

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Accepting state funding from the California Arts Council would help the City accomplish one of the five goals articulated in the City of Berkeley's *Arts and Culture Plan (2018-2027)* to "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." If awarded, the state grant funds would enable the City of Berkeley to leverage already dedicated local funds to provide increased support for arts organizations within the City of Berkeley.

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

None.

CONTACT PERSON

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

Attachment:

1: Resolution

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

GRANT APPLICATION: REQUESTING \$30,000 FROM THE CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL (CAC) TO SUPPORT ARTS ORGANIZATIONS' GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT IN THE CITY OF BERKELEY BY INCREASING THE CIVIC ARTS GRANTS PROGRAM FUNDING CATEGORY KNOWN AS *GENERAL OPERATING SUPPORT 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, the existing *General Operating Support Civic Arts* grant category supports the City's ability to sustain access to arts and cultural programming taking place in Berkeley; and

WHEREAS, state funding from the California Arts Council is available to government arts agencies for sub-granting purposes; and

WHEREAS, no additional allocation of funding from the City's General Fund would be required to receive this state grant funding; and

WHEREAS, the City will use the existing allocation of Civic Arts grants to meet the required 1:1 match of \$30,000; and

WHEREAS, if received, the CAC grant funds (of up to \$30,000) will be utilized to augment the *General Operating Support Civic Arts* grant category, bringing the total amount in that category from \$450,000 to (up to) \$480,000.

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 California Arts Council to receive up to \$30,000 for the above purpose; accept the grant if awarded; and execute any resultant agreements and amendments.

