



Igor Tregub, Councilmember District 4

CONSENT CALENDAR

JUNE 17, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council  
From: Councilmembers Igor Tregub (Author)  
Subject: Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds from General Funds and Grant of Such Funds to the Historical Plaque Project of the Berkeley Historical Society & Museum.

**RECOMMENDATION**

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the expenditure of up to \$500 per Councilmember from the D13 Discretionary Accounts of members of the Berkeley City Council, including \$500 from Councilmember Tregub, and inviting other members of the City Council to contribute to the Historical Plaque Project of the Berkeley Historical Society & Museum, with funds relinquished to the City's general fund.

The relinquished funds from the respective discretionary Council Office Budgets of such members of the Berkeley City Council who wish to contribute will support this impactful organization, to preserve cultural knowledge, and celebrate Berkeley's rich and diverse history.

**BACKGROUND**

The Berkeley Historical Society & Museum (BHSM) was founded in 1978, during the City of Berkeley's Centennial Celebration and is a registered 501(c)(3).<sup>1</sup> The mission of the organization is to foster appreciation and understanding of our city's unique history by residents and visitors alike through research, collection, preservation, exhibition and publication of historical records, photographs, artifacts, and other media.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://berkhistory.org/short-history/>

BSHM is hosted at the Veterans Memorial Building at 1931 Center Street. The Museum circulates exhibits of Berkeley's history, ranging from their first exhibit in 1993 "History on the Park" focusing on civic institutions around Civic Center Park, to the most recent "Roots, Removal and Resistance: Japanese Americans in Berkeley, and the past."<sup>2</sup>

BHSM also features the Berkeley Historical Plaque Project, which was originally independently established in 1997 with sponsorship from the City of Berkeley and its Landmarks Preservation Commission. Across the City, there are 125 physical plaques honoring various historical landmarks.<sup>3</sup> In 2023, The Berkeley Historical Plaque Project nearly had to shut down due to a lack of funding and volunteers, until the BHSM acquired the project in 2023.<sup>4</sup>

In addition to the physical plaques, the project also catalogues e-plaques on their website.<sup>5</sup> These e-plaques are written by all Berkeleyans. Over time, this project has grown into a collaborative, serendipitous self-portrait of our City.

By investing in the Plaque Project of the Berkeley Historical Society & Museum, the City of Berkeley demonstrates its continued commitment to cultural preservation.

### **CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS**

In the 28 years that the Berkeley Historical Plaque Project has been in operation, some plaques have sustained wear, damage, weathering, and other deterioration.

As the Berkeley Historical Society & Museum is volunteer led, support from City of Berkeley entities is critical to operating their programs that preserve and spread the history of our city.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

No General Fund impact. Up to \$500 is available from contributing Councilmembers' Council Office Budget discretionary accounts.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY**

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

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<sup>2</sup> <https://berkhistory.org/exhibits/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://berkeleyplaques.org/maps/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.berkeleyside.org/2023/07/28/berkeley-historical-plaque-project>

<sup>5</sup> <https://berkeleyplaques.org/e-plaques/>

**CONTACT**

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**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Resolution

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

**AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF SURPLUS FUNDS FROM THE OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNTS OF COUNCILMEMBERS FOR A GRANT TO SUPPORT THE HISTORICAL PLAQUE PROJECT OF THE BERKELEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY & MUSEUM**

**WHEREAS**, Councilmember Tregub has surplus funds in their D13 discretionary office expenditure accounts and will contribute up to \$500 each, and invites other Councilmembers to join in contributing; and

**WHEREAS**, the Berkeley Historical Society & Museum is a valuable resource for documenting Berkeley's deep history of social movements, natural history, immigrant experiences, legislative progress, African American resilience, architectural wonders, business development, and rich media; and

**WHEREAS**, the Berkeley Historical Plaque Project commemorates Berkeley's architecture, "Berkeleyana Spirit," artists & writers, counterculture, music, people, and scientists; and

**WHEREAS**, the plaque project, now in its 28<sup>th</sup> year has faced some deterioration and wear of the physical plaques; and

**WHEREAS**, the Berkeley Historical Society & Museum is volunteer-run and relies on community donations year-round to operate their programs that preserve and spread the history of our city; and

**WHEREAS**, additional funding will ensure longevity of the museum and plaque project for future generations; and

**WHEREAS**, the provision of such funding aligns with the City of Berkeley's commitment to cultural equity, inclusion, and the celebration of diversity as core civic values, as the Berkeley Historical Society & Museum and their associated programs aim to provide a public record of Berkeley's history and values;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Council of the City of Berkeley that funds relinquished by Councilmembers from their discretionary office budgets, up to \$500 per office, including \$500 from Councilmember Tregub, shall be authorized for expenditure from their D13 Discretionary Accounts to the Berkeley Historical Society & Museum to support its Historical Plaque Project.