

**BEN BARTLETT**

CITY COUNCILMEMBER, DISTRICT 3

CONSENT CALENDAR

December 2, 2025

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Councilmember Ben Bartlett (Author)

Subject: Creations Berkeley – Black Joy Club Kwanzaa Toy Drive and Celebration on December 11, 2025 – Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds to General Fund and Grant of Such Funds

RECOMMENDATION:

Adopt a Resolution approving the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$250 per Councilmember, including \$250 from the discretionary Council Office Budget of Councilmember Ben Bartlett, to Creations Berkeley Media & Performing Arts, Inc., to support the Black Joy Club's Kwanzaa Toy Drive and Celebration at Sylvia Mendez Elementary School on Wednesday, December 11, 2025. The funds will be relinquished to the City's General Fund from the Discretionary Council Office Budget of Councilmember Ben Bartlett and the Discretionary Council Office Budgets of any other Councilmembers who would like to contribute.

BACKGROUND:

On December 11, 2025, the Black Joy Club at Sylvia Mendez Elementary School, facilitated by Creations Berkeley, will host a Kwanzaa Celebration and Toy Drive inspired by the Kwanzaa principle of *Ujima*, Collective Work and Responsibility. The event will take place from 5:45 PM to 7:00 PM at Sylvia Mendez Elementary School, located at 2840 Ellsworth Street, room 107. The event underscores the program's commitment to empowering youth through meaningful community engagement.

The Black Joy Club provides a space to celebrate culture, build community, and develop leadership through creativity and service. Guided by Creations Berkeley, students decided to put the principle of *Ujima* into action by organizing a toy drive to bring joy to families in need during the holiday season.

At the celebration, students will present the collected gifts to the public as a gesture of unity and shared community care. The gifts will be distributed to local families in need, continuing the spirit of collective responsibility.

The Kwanzaa Celebration will include food, music, dance, and cultural sharing, emphasizing the values of unity, creativity, and cultural pride. The event showcases the leadership of Berkeley's youth and their ability to engage in meaningful civic service.

Creations Berkeley Media & Performing Arts, Inc., a Berkeley-based nonprofit organization, empowers historically underrepresented youth through accessible media literacy and performing arts education. Its programs, including *Lights, Camera, Action!* and *Creations Dance Group*, merge creative expression with leadership development, preparing young people for future opportunities in higher education and the creative economy.

The collaboration between Creations Berkeley and Sylvia Mendez Elementary School highlights the City's commitment to youth empowerment, cultural celebration, and community engagement.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:

No negative impact.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

There is no General Fund impact; \$250 is available from the discretionary council office budget of Councilmember Ben Bartlett.

CONTACT PERSON:

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ATTACHMENTS:

1. Draft Resolution
2. Black Joy Presents Kwanza Celebration Toy Drive Flyers

Attachment 1:

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

AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF SURPLUS FUNDS FROM THE OFFICE
EXPENSE ACCOUNTS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR A
DONATION TO CREATIONS BERKELEY IN SUPPORT OF THE BLACK JOY CLUB
KWANZAA TOY DRIVE AND CELEBRATION

WHEREAS, Councilmember Ben Bartlett has funds in his office expenditure account,
and

WHEREAS, Creations Berkeley Media and Performing Arts, Inc, a non-profit
organization, will receive funds for \$250 from Councilmember Ben Bartlett's office
expenditure account; and

WHEREAS, Creations Berkeley Media & Performing Arts, Inc., a nonprofit organization
dedicated to empowering historically underrepresented youth through accessible media
literacy and performing arts education, facilitates the Black Joy Club at Sylvia Mendez
Elementary School; and

WHEREAS, the Black Joy Club has launched a Kwanzaa Toy Drive and Celebration
inspired by the Kwanzaa principle of *Ujima*-Collective Work and Responsibility, to bring
joy and support to local families in need during the holiday season; and

WHEREAS, this youth-led initiative connects students, community members, and civic
leadership in an act of shared service, fostering cultural pride and civic engagement;
and

WHEREAS, the provisions of such services fulfill the municipal public purpose of
promoting youth empowerment, community well-being, and cultural education in the
City of Berkeley;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that
funds relinquished by the Mayor and Councilmembers from their office budgets up to
\$250 shall be granted to Creations Berkeley Media & Performing Arts, Inc. in support of
the Black Joy Club Kwanzaa Toy Drive and Celebration on December 11, 2025.

Attachment 2:

BLACK JOY CLUB PRESENTS

KWANZAA

TOY Drive

Inspired by the Principal of:
UJIMA
Collective work and responsibility

DONATE NEW, UNWRAPPED TOYS AND HELP MAKE THE HOLIDAYS SPECIAL FOR NEEDY CHILDREN.

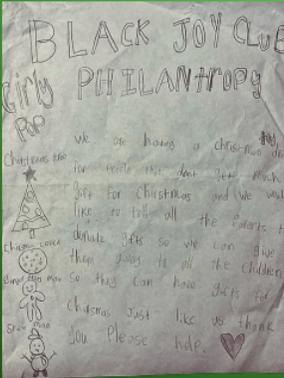
DROP OFF POINT Sylvia Mendez Elementary
2840 Ellsworth St, RM 107

BLACK JOY CLUB PHILANTHROPY

"We are having a Kwanzaa drive for People that dont get much gifts for Christmas and we would like to tell all the parents to donate gifts so we can give them away to all the children so they can have gifts for Christmas just like us. Thank you. Please help."

DONATIONS ACCEPTED FROM NOW UNTIL

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11



BLACK JOY CLUB PRESENTS

KWANZAA CELEBRATION!

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 11

Sylvia Mendez Elementary

5:45-7PM

*Come enjoy Kwanzaa with us!
We warmly invite families to our celebration on December 11th,
where we will enjoy food, music, dance, and more. Join in the
celebration of community, culture, and togetherness!*



Kwanzaa is a lively celebration honoring African heritage, taking place from December 26th to January 1st. Each day focuses on one of the Seven Principles, such as unity and self-determination. Immerse yourself in traditional music and dance, and don't miss the festive Karamu feast on December 31st, featuring delightful African-inspired dishes.

