



**Civic Arts Commission Meeting
Grants Subcommittee
Friday, May 15, 2026
2:00 PM**

To access the meeting remotely: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone, or Android device: Please use this URL <https://cityofberkeley-info.zoomgov.com/j/1658573439>. If you do not wish for your name to appear on the screen, then use the drop-down menu and click on "rename" to rename yourself to be anonymous. To request to speak, use the "raise hand" icon by rolling over the bottom of the screen. To join by phone: Dial **1-669-254-5252** and enter Meeting ID: **165 857 3439**. If you wish to comment during the public comment portion of the agenda, Press *9 and wait to be recognized by the Chair.

To submit an e-mail comment during the meeting to be read aloud during public comment, email civicarts@berkeleyca.gov with the Subject Line in this format: "PUBLIC COMMENT ITEM ##." Please observe a 150-word limit. Time limits on public comments will apply

Agenda

1. CALL TO ORDER

2. ROLL CALL

3. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The City of Berkeley recognizes that the community we live in was built on the territory of Huchiun (*Hooch-yoon*), the ancestral and unceded land of the Chochenyo (*Cho-chen-yo*) speaking Ohlone (*Oh-low-nee*) people, the ancestors and descendants of the sovereign Verona (*Vuh-roh-nuh*) Band of Alameda County. This land was and continues to be of great importance to all of the Ohlone Tribes and descendants of the Verona Band. We acknowledge and honor the original inhabitants of Berkeley, the documented 5,000-year history of a vibrant community at the West Berkeley Shellmound, and the Ohlone people who continue to reside in the East Bay. We recognize that Berkeley residents have and continue to benefit from the use and occupation of this unceded stolen land since the City of Berkeley incorporation in 1878. As stewards of the laws regulating the City of Berkeley, it is not only vital that we recognize the history of this land, but also recognize that the Ohlone people are present members of Berkeley and other East Bay communities today. The City of Berkeley will continue to build relationships with the Lisjan (*Lih-Shawn*) Tribe and create

meaningful actions that uphold the intention of this Land Acknowledgement

4. PUBLIC COMMENT (for items not on the agenda)

5. PRESENTATIONS, DISCUSSION & ACTION ITEMS (All items for presentation, discussion and possible action)

a) **Discussion Item:** FY27 Grants Subcommittee Work Plan (Attachment 1)

b) **Discussion Item:** Proposed FY27 Civic Arts Grants Budget Cuts (Attachment 2)

6. ADJOURNMENT

Attachments:

1) FY26 Civic Arts Commission Workplan

2) City of Berkeley FY27 Budget Reduction Plan (pages 14 – 16)

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ACCESSIBILITY INFORMATION:

This meeting is being held in a wheelchair accessible location. To request a disability-related accommodation(s) to participate in the meeting, including auxiliary aids or services, please contact the ADA Program Coordinator by phone (510) 981-6418 or by TTY/TDD (510) 981-6347 at least three business days before the meeting date. Please refrain from wearing scented products to this meeting.



Civic Arts Commission

Civic Arts Commission FY26 Work Plan (July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026)

6/25/2025 Civic Arts Commission meeting

Policy Subcommittee

1. Continue participation with staff and in consultation with the Housing Advisory Commission to advise on the development of policies and initiatives to create affordable housing for Artists and Cultural Workers in the City of Berkeley culminating in a report to Council with recommendations related to affordable housing for the arts and culture sector.
2. In response to Council Referral, develop and send to Council a cohesive policy for the establishment of any new Cultural Arts Districts and revision to the existing Cultural Arts Districts to bring them into alignment with the new policy.
3. Advocate for the designation of a Cultural Arts District in West Berkeley.
4. Advise on application to the California Arts Council for a State-designated Cultural Arts District in the City of Berkeley.

Grants Subcommittee

1. Advocate to Council for the restoration of the Community Festivals grant funding level back up to \$200,000.
2. Review and develop Civic Arts guidelines for Arts Programs, Community Festivals, General Operating Support, and Individual Artist Projects grant categories for the FY27 grant cycle with Civic Arts staff; make final guidelines recommendations to Civic Arts Commission.
3. Review funding scenarios for grant awards based on scores, number of applicants, and available funding; make final grant funding recommendations to Civic Arts Commission.

Public Art Subcommittee

1. Participate with Civic Arts staff and a consultant in the development of a *Public Art Strategic Plan* for the City of Berkeley. The Plan will outline the steps, strategies, and actions required to shape, reinforce, or transform the Civic Arts Public Art Program. The Plan will include strategies to stabilize and sustain the Public Art Program to better serve the community and will recommend best practices, policy updates, and project prioritization. The Plan will build on the Background of previous policy achievements and planning efforts adopted by City Council.
2. Review and approve completion of *List of Public Art Projects Included in Previous Fiscal Years (FY19 – FY25) Work Plans and Council Referrals (Attachment 1)* and the *Public Art Strategic Plan* before recommending new public art projects for implementation.
3. Review and approve public art projects at required development milestones.

Attachment 1: List of Public Art Projects Included in Previous Fiscal Years (FY19 – FY25) Work Plans and Council Referrals

Active (Listed Alphabetically):

1. Aquatic Park tile wall COMPLETION IN 2026
2. BART Plaza Sound Installation (Ongoing programming and equipment repair)
3. Framed Art Purchases for City Buildings COMPLETION IN 2025
4. Home sculpture de-installation COMPLETION IN 2026
5. Jean LaMarr sculptural seating and grinding rock at Ohlone Park COMPLETION IN 2026
6. Lara Kaur artwork at West Service Center COMPLETION IN 2025
7. Measure T-1: MLK Youth Service Center COMPLETION IN 2027
8. Measure T-1: Willard Clubhouse COMPLETION IN 2026
9. Peace Wall Conservation COMPLETION IN 2025
10. Po Shu Wang Signage and Bell COMPLETION IN 2025
11. Re-installation of Romare Bearden artwork COMPLETION IN 2026
12. Turtle Island Monument
13. Utility Box Mural Program (Assessment and Implementation of Recommendations)
14. William Wareham sculpture conservation and reinstallation COMPLETION IN 2026

Not Started (Listed in Prioritized Order):

1. Eric Powell Gates Conservation COMPLETION IN 2026
2. Santa Fe Right of Way Park COMPLETION IN 2027
3. Dona Spring Memorial (Council Referral)
4. Measure T-1: South Berkeley Senior Center COMPLETION IN 2028
5. Measure T-1: African American Health Resource Center COMPLETION IN 2028
6. Aquatic Park sculpture
7. City Flag, Song, and Motto (Council Referral)
8. Hidden Gems: Berkeley Hills Stairways
9. Mural Commemorating Black Lives Matter Movement
10. Telegraph Avenue Public Art Project
11. Telegraph Crosswalk Murals (Council Referral)
12. Harrison Street Corridor Project
13. Replacement Mural for Center for Independent Living (Council Referral)
14. Family Friendly Art (Council Referral)
15. Upcoming: Transfer Station Replacement
16. Upcoming Dreamland Park
17. Upcoming Waterfront Ferry Terminal

Budget Changes - GF

Category	FY27 Baseline Budget	FY 27 Proposed Budget	Change
Personnel	12,211,200	9,960,887	-2,250,313
Personnel – OT & Hourly	74,577	0	0
Non-Personnel	6,427,883	6,188,709	-239,174

Category	FY28 Baseline Budget	FY 28 Proposed Budget	Change
Personnel	12,538,953	10,345,504	-2,193,449
Personnel – OT & Hourly	74,577	0	0
Non-Personnel	6,427,883	6,188,709	-239,174

Impacts

Reduce one Community Development Project Coordinator – Office of Economic Development (filled)

- Reduces technical assistance provided to small businesses and management of the City's revolving loan fund.
- Limits capacity to support and provide assistance to three commissions (Elmwood BID, Solano BID, Loan Administration Board) and participate in the Telegraph BID board and executive committee. Staff will assess capacity and may recommend reducing meeting frequency for these commissions to manage workload and priorities.

Reduce one Office Specialist III – Office of Economic Development and Civic Arts (filled)

- Reduces capacity to process invoices, execute contracts, support events, and manage communications.
- Increases workload for remaining administrative staff in the City Manager's Office.

Reduce two Communications Specialists (both filled)

- The result of these reductions is that the Communications Division will only have one staff member assigned to citywide communications and to interact with the media. The reduction in staffing will weaken crisis and emergency communications and diminish media relations, and departmental communications support. Elimination of the Communications Specialist funded by Measure FF (fire) will enable the Fire Department to allocate staffing expenditures to this special tax.
- Departments will need to dedicate more staff to communications, especially emergency communications; response times and quality will decline.

Reduce one Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Officer (vacant)

- When combined with the Administrative Assistant position that was not funded as part of

the FY 26 Mid Biennial Budget, this reduction eliminates the Office of Diversity, Equity & Inclusion and shifts priority DEI projects to an Assistant to the City Manager, including the Peace & Justice Commission support and citywide DEI education efforts.

- Much, if not all, of the community focused engagement envisioned for this role will not occur.

Reduce one Economic Development Project Coordinator- Civic Arts (vacant)

- Reduces core operational capacity for the Civic Arts Program.
- Responsibilities are shifted to an Assistant to the City Manager to advance Civic Arts initiatives along with grant funded, and public facing arts programming.
- Risks delays in project delivery, contract administration, commission support, and compliance.

Reduce one Program Manager II – Special Projects (filled)

- Reduces capacity to support Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) module implementation, user acceptance testing, and staff training.
- Eliminates an internal resource for troubleshooting ERP issues.
- Training responsibilities shift to Human Resources; ERP implementation leadership remains with the Assistant to the City Manager, requiring departments to operate with greater independence.

Reduce one Social Services Specialist (vacant)

- Limits ability to expand homeless outreach efforts; without additional shelter capacity, reductions will have minimal impact on reducing street homelessness.

Reduce one Office Specialist II (vacant)

- No coordinated support to Civic Center 5th floor appointments and scheduling.

Significant Non-Personnel Reductions

- **\$40,000** – Eliminate Downtown Business Association Outreach Worker contract.
- **\$64,000** – Eliminate Spay and Neuter Your Pets contracts.
- **\$82,497** – Reduce General Fund support for Civic Arts grants by 10% to align with proposed organization and department budget reductions.
- **\$17,000** – Reduce economic development marketing budget by 10% to align with proposed organization and department budget reductions.
- Reallocating a portion of the salary of an Assistant to the City Manager to the Public Art Fund to reflect oversight of this work resulting from the Budget Balancing Plan elimination of the Economic Development Project Coordinator – Civic Arts and allocates a portion of a Civic Arts Coordinator position that was fully funded by the General Fund to the Public Art Fund to address the backlog of public arts projects.

- Allocating a portion of an Assistant to the City Manager to long-term grants that the position is managing.

Finance

The Finance Department has operated for years with only the minimum staffing necessary to perform its core functions: (a) processing the City’s cash receipts; (b) billing and collecting tax and fee revenues; (c) procurement of the goods and services for critical City operations; (d) ensuring key controls to protect City assets; and (e) ensuring proper accounting and financial reporting for City management, bond investors, and required statutory and regulatory oversight.

In response to the City’s fiscal challenges, the department has identified General Fund reductions that eliminate four positions. While necessary for budget balancing, these reductions will limit the Finance Department’s operational capacity, slow financial system modernization, reduce revenue-generating capacity, and reduce the department’s ability to support Citywide services.

FTE Changes – All Funds

Category	Baseline FTE	Proposed FTE	Change
Total Staffing	52	48	-4

Budget Changes - GF

Category	FY27 Baseline Budget	FY 27 Proposed Budget	Change
Personnel	8,453,929	7,865,911	-588,018
Personnel – OT & Hourly	28,440	28,440	0
Non-Personnel	1,404,866	1,308,528	-96,338

Category	FY28 Baseline Budget	FY 28 Proposed Budget	Change
Personnel	8,745,129	8,125,753	-619,376
Personnel – OT & Hourly	28,440	28,440	0
Non-Personnel	1,404,866	1,308,528	-96,338

Impacts

Reduce one Senior Systems Analyst (vacant)

Eliminating this position reduces the Finance Department’s capacity to manage financial system upgrades and coordinate implementation tasks. The vacancy has already slowed progress on major projects, including replacement of the City’s legacy financial system (FUND\$), new tax and billing systems, and expanded online payment options. Without this role, system modernization efforts will be delayed, and reliance on IT, whose staff lack specialized financial operations expertise, will increase.