



**Civic Arts Commission Meeting
Grants Subcommittee
Friday, June 5, 2026
12:00 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/1653035646>. 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: **165 303 5646**. 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) FY27 Civic Arts Commission Grants Subcommittee 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 FY27 Work Plan (July 1, 2026 – June 30, 2027)

Approval at 6/24/2026 Civic Arts Commission meeting

Grants Subcommittee

1. Advocate to Council for the sustaining and growth of the Civic Arts grant funding allocation.
2. Review and develop Civic Arts guidelines for Arts Programs, Community Festivals, General Operating Support, and Individual Artist Projects grant categories for the FY28 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.
4. Prepare for and monitor the proposed Berkeley arts ballot measure that will impact Civic Arts grants funding and staff operations.

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.