



Civic Arts Commission

CONSENT CALENDAR
May 31, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Civic Arts Commission
 Submitted by: Lisa Bullwinkel, Vice Chair
 Subject: Budget Referral: Festival Grants Budget Allocation

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the City's Budget Process for Fiscal Year 2023 an increased budget allocation of \$41,685 for Festival Grants to bring the allocation for these grants to \$200,000 annually beginning in Fiscal Year 2023.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Additional \$41,685 annual allocation from the General Fund.

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

The Festival Grants Budget Allocation is a Strategic Plan Priority Project, advancing our goal to foster a dynamic, sustainable, and locally-based economy.

On April 27, 2022, Berkeley's Civic Arts Commission voted unanimously to request that City Council Refer to the City's Budget Process for Fiscal Year 2023 an increased budget allocation of \$41,685 for Festival Grants to bring the allocation for these grants to \$200,000 annually beginning in Fiscal Year 2023. Submission of this Budget Referral Request was approved by the Civic Arts Commission at its April 27, 2022 meeting as follows: M/S/C (Anno/Blecher) Vote: Ayes — Anno, Blecher, Bullwinkel, Covarrubias, Dhesi, La, Ozol, Passmore, Woo; Nays — None; Abstain — None; Absent — None.

BACKGROUND

Prior to the pandemic, the Festival Grant Program allocation was \$158,315. When the pandemic hit, it was dropped to zero. However, the arts community responded with the ability to produce many of the festivals in some sort of virtual formats and the Council increased the allocation to \$80,000, or about one half the prior allocation. As the ability to produce actual live events and/or hybrid events increased, the allocation in Fiscal Year 2022 was proposed to be restored to \$158,315, however the Mayor added almost \$50,000 from his budget for a total Festival Grants allocation of \$200,000 in Fiscal Year 2022. The currently proposed allocation for Fiscal Year 2023 is back to \$158,315 which the arts community would like to increase and maintain annually at \$200,000. The Civic Arts Commission is requesting an annual increase to the Festival Grants allocation of \$41,685 to bring the baseline allocation for Festival Grants to \$200,000 starting in Fiscal

Year 2023. Each year approximately 20 to 25 dynamic Berkeley festivals are funded through this program. For FY23, we received 35 Festival Grant applications, which are currently being reviewed for scoring.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Established festivals need the added support as their model will most likely include a hybrid model for all future events. There are also may new festivals being created post-pandemic and so the need is greater than before.

CITY MANAGER

The City Manager takes no position the content and recommendations of the Commission's Report.

CONTACT PERSON

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