



Councilmember Sophie Hahn
City of Berkeley, District 5

CONSENT CALENDAR

April 12, 2022

To: Honorable Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Sophie Hahn (Author), Councilmember Terry Taplin (Co-Sponsor), Mayor Jesse Arreguín (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Kate Harrison (Co-Sponsor)
Subject: Kala Art Institute 2022 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 \$500 per Councilmember, including \$500 from Councilmember Taplin, \$250 from Councilmember Hahn and \$250 from Mayor Arreguín, to the Kala Art Institute, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, to support Art Kala 2022, an exhibition, auction, and benefit to support Kala's artistic, cultural, and educational programs, with funds relinquished to the City's general fund for this purpose from the discretionary Council office budget of Councilmembers Hahn and Taplin, Mayor Arreguín, and any other Councilmembers who would like to contribute.

BACKGROUND

Founded in 1974, by Archana Horsting and Yuzo Nakano, as an international residency program rooted in the local community and a forum for ideas, Kala Art Institute encourages artistic experimentation. Over four decades -- from a garage studio with one etching press and a single hot plate to a 15,200 sq. ft. facility in the historic West Berkeley Heinz building -- Kala has grown steadily in the breadth of its offerings and in the size of its operation, yet remains true to its mission to be a workshop of ideas and to engage the community through exhibitions, education, and public programs.

In 2009, Kala dynamically expanded its facility providing new opportunities for artists and the community. With improved studios, project rooms, classrooms, and a 2,200 sq. ft. light-filled gallery with an accessible street level location, Kala is working to maximize its capacity to serve the community as a vital center for artistic experimentation. Kala serves 35,000 individuals yearly through artist residencies, exhibitions, and community workshops. In addition, Kala's Artists-in-Schools program provides curriculum-based visual arts education to children in neighboring public schools in Berkeley, Emeryville, and Oakland. Overall, their constituents range from 5 to 95 years old and represent a diverse group of participants including local residents, visiting artists from all state, country, and abroad – representing an international spectrum of

backgrounds and experience. Bay Area artists represent 85% of participants in Kala's artist residencies.

Kala Art Institute's mission is to help artists sustain their creative work over time through its Artist-in-Residence and Fellowship Programs, and to engage the community through exhibitions, public programs, and education.

The heart of Kala's mission as a vital, California art-making hub is supporting artists and engaging the community. Kala offers professional facilities to those working in and across print and digital media, new media, and performance. Artists at Kala are encouraged to work across disciplines, produce innovative artwork of the highest quality, and are given total freedom to realize their artistic vision using media that span the Gutenberg to digital eras. Kala offers access to equipment, time, and space to cultivate creative projects. Kala's studios provide tools for printmaking, photography, video, installation, and digital media. Kala fosters a fresh approach to experimentation, as artists investigate the interface of digital work, work made by hand, work made in the studio, performance-based work that engages the community and everything in between. A spirit of exchange and education is nurtured through all Kala's community programs.

Kala's creative community builds bridges between the intense art-making environment of the Kala studios, located in the historic Heinz ketchup factory in Berkeley and life outside the studio in Kala's immediate neighborhood and far beyond. Additionally, Kala is committed to offering quality art education to the general public and public school children through its on-site and online program of classes and workshops, summer programs and its Artists-in-Schools program, established in 1991, providing multipleweek artist-led instruction to students in neighboring East Bay public schools.

Celebrating Kala's 48th year, Art Kala 2022 brings together Kala's creative community and features the inventive and meaningful art being made in the Bay Area. Art Kala 2022 with Honorary Auction Chairs Donna Westerman and Russ McClure will take place April 7th - May 22nd 2022, honoring Leah Rosenberg; VIP Print by Christine Wong Yap. Art Kala will take place at: Kala Gallery, 2990 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley, California 94702.

More information can be found at: <http://www.kala.org/gallery/spring-gala-and-auction/>.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

A total of up to \$4,500 from Councilmembers' discretionary budgets.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

This item is consistent with the City's vision on sustainability.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Sophie Hahn, (510) 981-7150

Attachments:
1: Resolution

RESOLUTION #####-N.S.

AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF SURPLUS FUNDS FROM
THE OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNTS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS
FOR A GRANT TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR A MUNICIPAL PUBLIC PURPOSE

WHEREAS, Kala Art Institute is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping artists sustain their creative work over time through its Artist-in-Residence and Fellowship Programs, and to engaging the community through exhibitions, public programs, and education; and

WHEREAS, since 1974, Kala has grown steadily in the breadth of its offerings and in the size of its operation, yet remains true to its mission to be a workshop of ideas and to engage the community through exhibitions, education, and public programs; and

WHEREAS, Kala serves 35,000 individuals yearly through artist residencies, exhibitions, and community workshops, and through its Artists-in-Schools program provides curriculum-based visual arts education to children in neighboring public schools in Berkeley, Emeryville, and Oakland; and

WHEREAS, Kala's constituents range from 5 to 95 years old and represent a diverse group of participants including local residents, visiting artists from all state, country, and abroad – representing an international spectrum of backgrounds and experience – with Bay Area artists representing 85% of participants in Kala's artist residencies; and

WHEREAS, Art Kala 2022 brings together Kala's creative community and features the inventive and meaningful art being made in the Bay Area, honoring Leah Rosenberg; VIP Print by Christine Wong Yap; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that funds relinquished by \$500 from Councilmember Taplin, \$250 from Councilmember Hahn and \$250 from Mayor Arreguín and any funds, up to \$500 per Council Office Budget, from the Mayor and other Councilmembers shall be granted to the Kala Art Institute to support Art Kala 2022 and to celebrate Kala's 48th year helping artists sustain their creative work in Berkeley and beyond.