

CONSENT CALENDAR

February 9, 2021

TO: Honorable Members of the City Council

FROM: Mayor Jesse Arreguín  
Vice Mayor Lori Droste  
Councilmember Hahn  
Councilmember Robinson

SUBJECT: Installation of Banners Marking “Kala Bagai Way”: Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Fund to General Fund and Grant of Such Funds

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution approving the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$500.00 per council member, including \$500.00 from Mayor Arreguín, to the Downtown Berkeley Association with funds relinquished to the City’s general fund for this purpose from the discretionary council office budget of Mayor Arreguín and any other council members who would like to contribute.

BACKGROUND

In 2020, the City Council approved the renaming of a two-block portion of Shattuck Avenue ‘East’ from Center Street to University Avenue to “Kala Bagai Way.”

The City’s decision to honor Kala Bagai—an Asian American, a woman, an immigrant, and a survivor of local racism—has attracted significant positive attention. There have been over two dozen media mentions to date, ranging from KQED to the Times of India.

Community members are working with the Office of Economic Development and the Downtown Berkeley Association to install banners to mark this historic moment, honor Kala Bagai, and celebrate the City’s Asian American history. Funds will go towards the printing and installation of banners. We expect the banners to be installed prior to the ribbon cutting for the Shattuck Reconfiguration project.

The placemaking banner was designed pro-bono by the Design Action Collective in Oakland, with input from the Bagai family and community members. One side honors Kala Bagai and features a photo of her, while the other honors Berkeley's Asian American history, and features a group photo of early local South Asian families.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

\$500.00 from Mayor Arreguín's discretionary council office budget.

CONTACT

Mayor Jesse Arreguín

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

AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF SURPLUS FUNDS FROM THE OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNTS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR A GRANT TO PROVIDE PUBLIC SERVICES FOR A MUNICIPAL PUBLIC PURPOSE

WHEREAS, in 2020, the City Council approved the renaming of a two-block portion of Shattuck Avenue 'East' from Center Street to University Avenue to "Kala Bagai Way"; and

WHEREAS, the City's decision to honor Kala Bagai—an Asian American, a woman, an immigrant, and a survivor of local racism—has attracted significant positive attention; and

WHEREAS, the placemaking banner was designed with input from the Bagai family and community members; and

WHEREAS, one side of the banner honors Kala Bagai and features a photo of her, while the other honors Berkeley's Asian American history, and features a group photo of early local South Asian families; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Arreguín has surplus funds in his office expenditure account; and

WHEREAS, a California non-profit tax-exempt corporation – the Downtown Berkeley Association – will receive funds in the amount of \$500.00; and

WHEREAS, the provision of such services would fulfill the following municipal public purpose: the Downtown Berkeley Association is a 501(c)(6) non-profit program, in the San Francisco Bay Area, working with community members and the City's Office of Economic Development to mark this historic moment, honor Kala Bagai, and celebrate the City's Asian American history.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that funds relinquished by the Mayor and council members from their council office budget of up to \$500.00 per office shall be granted to the Downtown Berkeley Association.

