



TO: Members of the City Council

FROM: Mayor Jesse Arreguín, Councilmember Kate Harrison

SUBJECT: Referral to the Civic Arts Commission to Commission a Memorial Wall to Councilmember Dona Spring at the Animal Shelter and a Budget Referral to Increase Staffing Capacity in the Civic Arts Program

RECOMMENDATION

Refer to the Fiscal Year 2024/2025 Budget Process and the City Manager \$162,000 from the General Fund and allocate 1 additional FTE for Civics Arts and refer to the Civic Arts Commission to commission a Memorial Wall to Dona Spring at the Animal Shelter.

BACKGROUND

In November 2008, the Berkeley City Council adopted a resolution renaming the City's new animal shelter after Councilmember Dona Spring, who passed away in July 2008. While the Berkeley Animal Shelter opened in 2013, the effort to install a permanent memorial to Councilmember Dona Spring has stalled for the past decade. Based on email records shared with the Mayor's Office, at various times over the past decade, there has been public comment at the Animal Care Commission¹ addressing the work to properly memorialize Councilmember Spring's contributions and educating the public about her instrumental role in passing the bond (Measure I, 2002) to fund the animal shelter, as well as setting the tone for how we treat animals in the city. This budget referral seeks to reinvigorate this initiative and fund the process of installing a memorial ~~art wall~~ to Councilmember Spring at, or in close proximity of, the Animal Shelter.

From the November 18, 2008, Council report "Naming the New Animal Shelter in honor of Councilmember Dona Spring"²:

Councilmember Dona Spring was instrumental in highlighting animal welfare problems in Berkeley and was central in solving them. She urged the council to make animal research organizations operating in Berkeley accountable for the

¹ As of 2022, the Animal Care Commission's oversight role was merged with the Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Commission.

² [Naming the New Animal Shelter in honor of Councilmember Dona Spring](#) (Berkeley City Council, November 18, 2008) [PDF]

humane treatment of animals. She was one of the people in Berkeley that demanded a new concept of an animal shelter to be led by an experienced civilian in animal welfare. She championed the council decision to create the new position of volunteer coordinator in the shelter that oversees the loads of volunteers who come to the animal shelter to socialize pets and make them much more adoptable. She fought for new Berkeley laws affecting animal welfare, such as the spay and neuter of animals and providing money for animal rescue groups, that reduced the number of homeless animals in Berkeley. She demanded that Berkeley's adoptable animals not be euthanized, which led to a change in the way homeless animals are treated.

Civic Arts staff currently have 20 active public arts projects and a backlog of 14 public art projects (see Civic Arts Commission FY24 Work Plan³). At current staffing levels, the Civic Arts Program has the capacity to implement 10-15 art projects per year. While additional projects are approved every year, the Civic Arts Program operates with a perpetual backlog. This budget referral seeks to fund an additional 1 FTE to Civic Arts staff to help address the current backlog and implement this referral to the Civic Arts Commission.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

\$162,000 from the General Fund for one additional FTE Civic Arts staff.

Funding for the memorial Wall, if approved, to be included in a future annual Civic Arts plan.

CONTACT

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³ [Civic Arts Commission FY 24 Work Plan](#), approved July 19, 2023 (pgs. 32-33) [PDF]