

**BEN BARTLETT**

VICE MAYOR

CONSENT CALENDAR

June 27, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Vice Mayor Ben Bartlett

Subject: Street Pavement Painting: Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds to General Fund and Grant of Such Funds

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution approving the expenditure of funds, including \$1000.00 from Vice Mayor Bartlett, to Healthy Black Families, Inc. for the Ellis Street art renovation. The funds will be relinquished to the City's General Fund from the discretionary council office budget of Vice Mayor Ben Bartlett and the discretionary council office budgets of any other City Councilmembers who would like to contribute.

BACKGROUND

As part of the Juneteenth celebration, the Ellis Street Neighbors, Healthy Black Families, and various community groups hope to renovate a public street pavement mural. Recently, the streetwalk art has been painted over by staff from Public Works, and its removal has caused concern among community members.<sup>1</sup> Because of its position on the east side of Malcolm X Elementary School, streetwalk art has become an important touchstone for educators to re-incorporate community art and continue the conversations about reparations into their curriculum. Currently, reparations are actively being discussed at the local level by Berkeley Unified School District and the state level by our governor.

Several community members designed this artwork, including the famous local artists O'Brien Thiele and Edythe Boone<sup>2</sup>.

It is also a call to action to address the history of racial discrimination in South Berkeley and throughout our country. The mural has been shared and celebrated in the local press across the East Bay since it was completed in 2020. In the future, the art hopes to convey and celebrate the resilience of Black Americans, who have endured generations of oppression in the ongoing journey toward equal justice, equal dignity, equal rights, and equal opportunity in America.

<sup>1</sup> Markovich, A. (2023, May 23). Why the South Berkeley "reparations now" mural was painted over. Berkeleyside. <https://www.berkeleyside.org/2023/05/17/berkeley-reparations-now-mural-painted-over>

<sup>2</sup> Taylor, T. (2022, August 4). Berkeley neighbors start work on street mural calling for "reparations now!" Berkeleyside. <https://www.berkeleyside.org/2020/07/23/berkeley-neighbors-start-work-on-street-mural-calling-for-reparations-now>



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Other street murals, such as the “Ohlone Territory” and “Black Lives Matter” painted on Milvia Street and Martin Luther King Jr Way, respectively, have been created to serve as a visual reminder and message for the community.<sup>3</sup> These projects have previously been approved and supported by the City of Berkeley.



Photo courtesy of Berkeleyside. Credit to Ximena Natera<sup>4</sup>

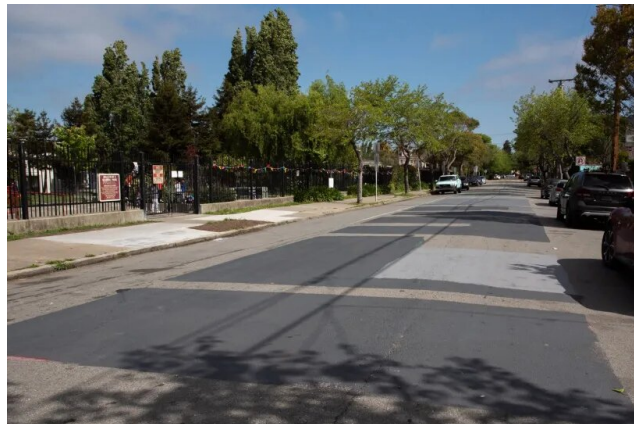


Photo courtesy of Berkeleyside. Credit to UC Berkeley Art and Design<sup>5</sup>

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### ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No negative impact.

### FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

No General Fund impact; \$1000.00 is available from the discretionary council office budget of Vice-Mayor Ben Bartlett.

### CONTACT PERSON

Vice Mayor Ben Bartlett

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### ATTACHMENTS

<sup>3</sup> Hahn, Sophie. “Black Lives Matter and Ohlone Recognition.” 9, June, 2020. [https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GGNRruOKGrxIWQ3xprQSa5wj60\\_WQoh6/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GGNRruOKGrxIWQ3xprQSa5wj60_WQoh6/view)

<sup>4</sup> Markovich, A. (2023, May 23). Why the South Berkeley “reparations now” mural was painted over. Berkeleyside. <https://www.berkeleyside.org/2023/05/17/berkeley-reparations-now-mural-painted-over>

<sup>5</sup> Markovich, Ally. “Berkeley School District Explores Giving Cash Payments to Students with Enslaved Ancestors.” Berkeleyside, 24 Mar. 2023. <https://www.berkeleyside.org/2023/03/24/busd-reparations-program-berkeley-unified-school-district>.



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1. Resolution No. XXXXX

Attachment 1

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

AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF SURPLUS FUNDS FROM THE OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNTS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL MEMBERS FOR A DONATION TO HEALTHY BLACK FAMILIES, INC. TO RENOVATE THE STREET PAVEMENT ART ON ELLIS STREET.

**WHEREAS**, Vice Mayor Ben Bartlett has surplus funds in his office expenditure account; and

**WHEREAS**, Healthy Black Families supports health equity, birth equity, and healthy food and beverages by supporting the Black community within the City of Berkeley; and

**WHEREAS**, Healthy Black Families will receive funds in the amount of \$1000.00 from Councilmember Ben Bartlett's office expenditure account for the purposes of restoring the public mural on Ellis Street; and

**WHEREAS**, the provisions of such services would allow for a street pavement preservation municipal public purpose of celebrating the power and resilience of Black Americans, who have endured generations of oppression in the ongoing journey toward equal justice, equal dignity, equal rights, and equal opportunity in America.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Berkeley that funds relinquished by the Mayor and Councilmembers from their office budgets, of an amount to be determined by each Councilmember, shall be granted to Healthy Black Families.

