



Office of the City Manager

INFORMATION CALENDAR
December 12, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
 From: Housing Advisory Commission
 Submitted by: Debbie Potter, Chairperson, Housing Advisory Commission
 Subject: Housing Advisory Commission Work Plan Fiscal Year 2024

INTRODUCTION

The Housing Advisory Commission (HAC) submits its Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 work plan to the City Council as an information item (Attachment 1).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

In July 2016, the City Council directed all commissions (with certain exceptions) to submit work plans detailing goals and objectives for the year. Plans should be submitted at the start of each fiscal year. Commission work plans were suspended during the past two fiscal years due to the COVID pandemic. The requirement to prepare commission work plans was reinstated for FY 24 (July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024).

At its October 5, 2023 meeting, the HAC approved its FY 2024 work plan with the following vote:

Action: M/S/C (Johnson/Ortiz-Cedeño) to adopt the 2023-2024 work plan, as amended.

Vote: Ayes: Braslaw, Fain, Johnson, Ortiz-Cedeño, Potter, and Simon-Weisberg. Noes: none. Abstain: none. Absent: Calavita (unexcused), Mendonca (excused).

The goal of the work plan is to recommend to the City Council affordable housing and community development programs and policies that further social justice and address systemic racism, classism, and inequity in the city of Berkeley.

The FY 2024 work plan goal will be achieved through the following work plan activities:

1. Convene ad hoc year-round subcommittees to work with staff on proposed HTF allocations and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG)-funded public facilities improvements and make funding recommendations to the full HAC.
2. Develop an ordinance regarding fair access and transparency for rental housing applications for City Council consideration.

3. Work with the Civic Arts Commission, via a subcommittee that meets together or concurrently, regarding proposed artist housing initiatives for HAC's and the Civic Arts Commission's approval and City Council consideration of any recommended initiatives.
4. Undertake a process to: a) better inform the HAC about Emergency Shelter/Solutions Grant (ESG) and CDBG-funded agencies, programs, and funding needs, and b) enhance public participation and the public's feedback on program effectiveness ahead of recommending five-year and annual program and funding allocations to City Council.
5. Explore a subcommittee that meets together or concurrently with the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission, or other appropriate bodies, on Housing and Wildfire Risk.
6. Increase opportunities for more direct participation, including exploring hybrid meeting access, with community members and groups to gather input to be included in decision-making and recommendations.
7. Review and make recommendations to City Council regarding various affordable housing policies including inclusionary housing fees, the Housing Preference Policy discrimination study report (if funded), etc.

BACKGROUND

The FY 2024 work plan reflects the HAC's mission to:

1. Advise the City Council on housing matters, including affordable housing programs and policies and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Services Grant (ESG) programs and their funding allocations;
2. Recommend to the City Council Housing Trust Fund (HTF) allocations;
3. Serve as the oversight body for Measure O, the \$135 million General Obligation bond to fund development of affordable housing; and
4. Review and make recommendations on items referred by the City Council, HAC members, or other commissions.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

There are no direct environmental effects or opportunities associated with the subject of this report.

POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

The HAC will continue to work on this Work Plan in order to refine potential outputs, outcomes, activities, and required resources.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTION

It is possible that adoption of new housing-related programs or policies stemming from City Council referrals or City Council-adopted HAC recommendations could result in fiscal impacts to the City.

CONTACT PERSON

Anna Cash, Commission Secretary, HHCS, (510) 981-5403

ATTACHMENTS:

1: Housing Advisory Commission FY 2024 work plan



Housing Advisory Commission

FY 2024 HOUSING ADVISORY COMMISSION WORK PLAN

Mission Statement:

The Housing Advisory Commission:

1. Advises the City Council on housing matters, including affordable housing programs and policies and Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and Emergency Services Grant (ESG) programs and their funding allocations;
2. Recommends to the City Council Housing Trust Fund (HTF) allocations;
3. Serves as the oversight body for Measure O, the \$135 million General Obligation bond to fund development of affordable housing; and
4. Reviews and makes recommendations on items referred by the City Council, HAC members, or other commissions.

In addition, as necessary, the HAC:

1. Hears matters regarding abatement of substandard buildings pursuant to chapter 19.40; and
2. Serves as the appeals board for relocation and correction of code violations as provided in chapter 19.40.

When advising the City Council, the HAC is committing to addressing past and present racial and social inequities in housing and other community development service delivery and approaching its recommendations through a social justice lens.

Goal:

Recommend affordable housing and community development programs and policies that further social justice and address systemic racism, classism and inequity in the city of Berkeley as outlined in HAC's FY 2024 work plan.

FY 2024 Work Plan Activities:

1. Convene ad hoc year-round subcommittees to work with staff on proposed HTF allocations and CDBG-funded public facilities improvements and make funding recommendations to the full HAC.
2. Develop an ordinance regarding fair access and transparency for rental housing applications for City Council consideration.
3. Work with the Civic Arts Commission, via a subcommittee that meets together or concurrently, regarding proposed artist housing initiatives for HAC's and the

Civic Arts Commission's approval and City Council consideration of any recommended initiatives.

4. Undertake a process to: 1) better inform the HAC about ESG and CDBG-funded agencies, programs, and funding needs, and 2) enhance public participation and the public's feedback on program effectiveness ahead of recommending five-year and annual program and funding allocations to City Council.
5. Explore a subcommittee that meets together or concurrently with the Disaster and Fire Safety Commission, or other appropriate bodies, on Housing and Wildfire Risk.
6. Increase opportunities for more direct participation, including exploring hybrid meeting access, with community members and groups to gather input to be included in decision-making and recommendations.
7. Review and make recommendations to City Council regarding various affordable housing policies including inclusionary housing fees, the Housing Preference Policy discrimination study report (if funded), etc.

Outcomes:

1. HTF monies pledged to affordable housing projects serving families and housing-insecure households
2. CDBG-funded public facilities constructed in support of non-profits
3. Adoption of a Fair Access and Transparency for Rental Housing Application Ordinance
4. Proposed initiatives to promote affordable artist housing to retain and build the city's cultural infrastructure
5. Five-Year and Annual CDBG/ESG Plans and funding recommendations that are grounded in service to the city's low-income and historically marginalized residents
6. Recommendations about protecting low-income residents from wildfire hazards
7. Outcomes that are reflective of the community's actual needs and concerns through increased consideration and inclusion of community voices, particularly those of low and moderate income
8. Review workplan progress quarterly.

