To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Kriss Worthington
Councilmember Linda Maio
Mayor Jesse Arreguin
Councilmember Ben Bartlett

Subject: Budget referral for the César Chávez Solar Calendar

RECOMMENDATION:
Refer to the city budget process, consideration of granting $25,000 to Kala Art Institute for the César Chávez Memorial Solar Calendar Project.

BACKGROUND:
The César Chávez Memorial Solar Calendar Project is meant to provide an outdoor classroom to study science, math and culture, as well as create a tranquil space for reflection in the midst of a busy urban environment. Central to that is the honoring of the work, life, and values of César Chávez.

It is crucial that, with the Kala Art Institute serving as a fiscal agent, the César Chávez Solar Calendar receive enough funds to jumpstart the 2017 Fund Development Plan of this project. They have recently received a Chancellor’s Community Partnership Grant of $15,000, which was matched by approximately $52,000 of In-kind architectural support. The current goal is have a budget referral to grant $25,000 to the project.

A small investment from the city will leverage large amounts of investing from both public and private partners. The Solar Calendar has been in the works for several years, and has received the approval and support from the Parks and Waterfront Commission, the Civic Arts Commission, the City Council, the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Integrated Waste Management Board in previous years. The project has wide popular support, and like the ancient monuments in Mexico and Perú, will embody in its art, science and cultural design what Berkeley stands for as a community.

Link to the César Chávez Solar Calendar website: www.solarcalendar.org

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:
$25,000

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:
Consistent with Berkeley’s Environmental Sustainability Goals.
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