



Issue 8 | September 17, 2018

CELEBRATING COMMUNITY COLLABORATION

Let's celebrate the amazing results of community collaboration! This past weekend, through deeply collaborative and caring partnerships, the community came together to bridge the digital divide, enjoy art and spoken word, clean up our coastline, and explore green(er) forms of transportation. In Downtown, Berkeley Central Library hosted a [tech fair](#), in partnership with Tech Exchange and Comcast Internet Essentials, Black Girls Code, and Berkeley City College. Over 300 people attended the event, where 107 computers were given away, plus vouchers for 72 more. Just a few blocks away, there was an [electric car and e-bike fair](#) at the Farmers' Market at Civic Center Park. Adult attendees had a chance to learn about the newest electric and plug-in hybrid cars and test ride electric bikes, while children took advantage of a bounce house and art activities. For those too old for a bounce house, a [hip hop and spoken word event](#) was held at Grove Park in South Berkeley. Besides great music and spoken word, the 450 attendees enjoyed a breakdance competition, graffiti art show, and karaoke. At Aquatic Park, people of all ages were busy collecting trash (and data!). The annual [Coastal Cleanup Day](#) happens in communities all along the California coast. At this important event, 1,070 volunteers worked together to clean shores at sites in Berkeley, Albany, and Emeryville while collecting important data that can inform changes in laws and practices.

CALLING ALL ARTISTS!

Calling all artists! We're looking for artists to create functional public art for the North Berkeley Senior Center and San Pablo Park. Both sites are being renovated and the public art pieces will be part of the resulting improvements. The commissioned pieces will contribute beauty and enhance each site's unique character. There is a [request for quotes \(RFQ\)](#) for artists, open until October 23 at 2:00 pm. Responses to the RFQ will be reviewed by a selection panel of community representatives, arts professionals, and City staff. Three finalists will be selected to develop conceptual design proposals for each site. The selection panel will reconvene to review these proposals and select the final artwork for each location. For questions, contact civicarts@cityofberkeley.info.

CHANGES

Have you heard of "erma"? It's what we nicknamed our new financial software. Launching **erma** is phase one of a multi-year effort to replace our 25+ year old legacy software system which handles many things, including financials. With the launch of **erma**, we are not only changing our software but improving our processes and policies. Improvements include streamlined requisition/purchasing and contract processes, a new chart of accounts, and introduction of a projects and grants ledger. We are happy to announce that **erma** is in the final stages of testing and looks good! Also, we've had such a great response to our trainings scheduled for this month, that we've decided to push the launch to November 1 to add more training classes. With these additional opportunities to train, every one will have greater ability to gain familiarity with the new software and processes. Sign up for training at <http://cobwebv1/helpdesk/traincal.html> on any city-networked computer. If you need help or have questions, contact erpcoreteam@cityofberkeley.info.

KEY DATES

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| Sept. 21 | <i>Kubo and the Two Strings</i> Movies in the Park, 7:30 pm Willard Park |
| Oct. 13 | <i>Harvest Festival & Music</i> in the Park, 11:00 am - 4 pm Cedar Rose Park |