

**SOPHIE HAHN**

Berkeley City Council, District 5
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CONSENT CALENDAR

June 1, 2021

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Sophie Hahn (Author), Councilmember Terry Taplin (Co-Sponsor), Councilmember Susan Wengraf (Co-Sponsor), and Mayor Jesse Arreguín
Subject: Berkeley Rep's OVATION: *Imagine* Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds to General Fund and Grant of Such Funds

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a resolution approving the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$500 per Councilmember, including \$250 from Councilmember Hahn, to the Berkeley Repertory Theatre, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, to support OVATION: *Imagine*, an event to support Berkeley Rep's productions and arts education programs, with funds

relinquished to the City's general fund for this purpose from the discretionary Council office budget of Councilmember Hahn, and any other Councilmembers who would like to contribute.

BACKGROUND

Since 1968, Berkeley Repertory Theatre has provided a welcoming home for emerging and established artists, growing from a storefront stage to an international leader in innovative theatre. Berkeley Rep's mission is to create ambitious theatre that entertains and challenges its audiences, provokes civic engagement, and inspires people to experience the world in new and surprising ways.

Berkeley Rep is known for its ambition, relevance, and excellence, as well as its adventurous audience. Over 5.5 million people have enjoyed nearly 500 shows at Berkeley Rep, which have gone on to win six Tony Awards, seven Obie Awards, nine Drama Desk Awards, one Grammy Award, one Pulitzer Prize, and many other honors. Berkeley Rep received the Tony Award for Outstanding Regional Theatre in 1997.

To formalize, enhance, and expand the processes by which Berkeley Rep makes theatre, The Ground Floor: Berkeley Rep's Center for the Creation and Development of New Work was launched in 2012. The Berkeley Rep School of Theatre engages and educates some 20,000 people a year and helps build the audiences of tomorrow with its nationally recognized teen programs. Berkeley Rep's bustling facilities — which also include the 400-seat Peet's Theatre, the 600-seat Roda Theatre, and a spacious campus in West Berkeley — provide vitality to the City.

On June 5, 2021, Berkeley Rep will host OVATION: *Imagine*, a night to revel in the Theatre's anticipated reopening this fall, as well as to celebrate the 20th anniversary of Berkeley Rep's School of Theatre. Hosted by *SNL* star and Berkeley Rep School of Theatre alum Chloe Fineman and featuring sneak peeks from the 2021 season and appearances by The Avett Brothers, Jocelyn Bioh, Raúl Esparza, John Gallagher, Jr., and others, OVATION is the Theatre's only fundraising event of the year and provides critical support for their productions and arts education programs. This year's virtual event begins at 6pm with virtual cocktails followed by tributes, performances and an online auction. The event is free to all who register.

More information can be found at the following link: [Berkeley Rep's OVATION: *Imagine*](#).

FISCAL IMPACTS

A total of up to \$4,500 from Councilmembers' discretionary budgets.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

This item is consistent with the City's vision on sustainability.

CONTACT: Councilmember Sophie Hahn, District 5, 510-682-5905 cell

ATTACHMENT:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION #####-N.S.

AUTHORIZING THE EXPENDITURE OF SURPLUS FUNDS FROM
THE OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNTS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS
FOR A GRANT TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR A MUNICIPAL PUBLIC PURPOSE

WHEREAS, Berkeley Repertory Theatre (Berkeley Rep) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to creating ambitious theatre that entertains and challenges its audiences, provokes civic engagement, and inspires people to experience the world in new and surprising ways; and

WHEREAS, over 5.5 million people have enjoyed nearly 500 shows at Berkeley Rep, which have gone on to win six Tony Awards, seven Obie Awards, nine Drama Desk Awards, one Grammy Award, one Pulitzer Prize, and many other honors; and

WHEREAS, to formalize, enhance, and expand the processes by which Berkeley Rep makes theatre, The Ground Floor: Berkeley Rep's Center for the Creation and Development of New Work was launched in 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Berkeley Rep School of Theatre engages and educates some 20,000 people a year and helps build the audiences of tomorrow with its nationally recognized teen programs; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley Rep's bustling facilities — which also include the 400-seat Peet's Theatre, the 600-seat Roda Theatre, and a spacious campus in West Berkeley — provide vitality to the City; and

WHEREAS, on June 5, 2021, Berkeley Rep will host OVATION: *Imagine*, a night to revel in the Theatre's anticipated reopening this fall, celebrate the 20th anniversary of Berkeley Rep's School of Theatre; and provide critical support for their productions and arts education programs;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that funds relinquished by Councilmember Hahn of \$250 and any funds, up to \$500 per Council Office Budget, from the Mayor and other Councilmembers shall be granted to the Berkeley Repertory Theatre to OVATION: *Imagine* and to support Berkeley Rep's productions and arts education programs and to celebrate their many decades of

providing a welcoming home for emerging and established artists as an international leader in innovative theatre.