



Susan Wengraf
Councilmember District 6

CONSENT CALENDAR
May 24, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council
From: Councilmember Wengraf (Author), Councilmember Hahn (Co-Sponsor)
Subject: Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds to the General Fund and Grant of Such Funds to the Actor's Ensemble Company to Perform a Staged Reading of the play, "Roe" at the Goldman Theatre in the David Brower Center on June 12, 2022

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution approving the expenditure of an amount not to exceed \$500 per Councilmember, including \$500 from Councilmember Wengraf, to the Actor's Ensemble Company to fund a staged reading of the play, "Roe" at the Goldman Theatre of the David Brower Center on June 12, 2022

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

No General Fund impact; \$500 is available from Councilmember Wengraf's Office Budget discretionary account. Other Councilmembers can contribute as their discretionary accounts permit.

BACKGROUND

In light of the imminent news of the Supreme Court ruling to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and to end a woman's right to legal abortion, *Commission on the Status of Women* Commissioner Carole Marasovic, in collaboration with Jerome Solberg, Executive Director of the Actor's Ensemble of Berkeley and Susannah Wood, Director, are proposing a staged reading of "Roe", a play by Lisa Loomer. The play centers around the two women who made *Roe v. Wade* a reality – Sara Weddington, a 26-year-old attorney and the plaintiff, Norma McCorvey, known under the pseudonym Jane Roe. The play follows the two young women as they embark on separate journeys that mirror the polarization over the 1973 landmark decision.

Admission to the performance will be free. In addition, the Downtown Berkeley Association has agreed to schedule a free public preview performance in the BART Plaza Soundstage on June 9th.

The budget for the performance includes: \$354 purchasing of play rights, \$50 stipend for each of 12 actors; \$100 stipend for Director; \$570 for venue rental; \$200 for rehearsals and approximately \$650 for promotion and publicity.

Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds for "Roe"

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The [Actor's Ensemble of Berkeley](#), a California non-profit tax-exempt corporation, has been the recipient of two proclamations from the City of Berkeley, in 2007 and in 2019. They are recognized regionally for their high caliber theatre productions.

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

No impact.

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Wengraf

Council District 6

510-981-7160

Attachments:

1: Resolution

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

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

WHEREAS, Councilmember Susan Wengraf has surplus funds in her office expenditure account; and

WHEREAS, a California non-profit tax-exempt corporation, the Actor's Ensemble Company seeks funds in the amount of \$2,500 to perform a stage reading of the play, "Roe"; and

WHEREAS, the provision of such funds would fulfill the municipal public purpose of allowing Berkeley residents, regardless of their means, to be able to attend this performance.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the \$500 relinquished by Councilmember Wengraf from her Council Office Budget and any other Councilmember who wishes to contribute shall be granted to the Actor's Ensemble company to fund the June 12th performance of the Staged Reading of the play, "Roe".

