



Councilmember Sophie Hahn
City of Berkeley, District 5

To: Honorable Members of the City Council
From: Councilmembers Sophie Hahn (Author) and Terry Taplin (Co-Sponsor)
Subject: Kala Art Institute 2023 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 and \$500 from Councilmember Taplin, to the Kala Art Institute, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, to support Art Kala 2023, an exhibition, auction, and benefit to support Kala's artistic, cultural, and educational programs, with funds relinquished to the City's general fund for this purpose from the discretionary Council office budgets of Councilmembers Hahn and Taplin, and from any other Councilmembers who would like to contribute.

BACKGROUND

Founded in 1974, by Archana Horsting and Yuzo Nakano, as an international residency program rooted in the local community and a forum for ideas, Kala Art Institute encourages artistic experimentation. Over four decades -- from a garage studio with one etching press and a single hot plate to a 15,200 sq. ft. facility in the historic West Berkeley Heinz building -- Kala has grown steadily in the breadth of its offerings and in the size of its operation, yet remains true to its mission to be a workshop of ideas and to engage the community through exhibitions, education, and public programs.

In 2009, Kala dynamically expanded its facility providing new opportunities for artists and the community. With improved studios, project rooms, classrooms, and a 2,200 sq. ft. light-filled gallery with an accessible street level location, Kala is working to maximize its capacity to serve the community as a vital center for artistic experimentation. Kala serves 35,000 individuals yearly through artist residencies, exhibitions, and community workshops. In addition, Kala's Artists-in-Schools program provides curriculum-based visual arts education to children in neighboring public schools in Berkeley, Emeryville, and Oakland. Overall, their constituents range from 5 to 95 years old and represent a diverse group of participants including local residents and visiting artists from all states and countries -- representing an international spectrum of backgrounds and experience. Bay Area artists represent 85% of participants in Kala's artist residencies.

Kala Art Institute's mission is to help artists sustain their creative work over time through its Artist-in-Residence and Fellowship Programs, and to engage the community through

exhibitions, public programs, and education.

The heart of Kala's mission as a vital, California art-making hub is supporting artists and engaging the community. Kala offers professional facilities to those working in and across print and digital media, new media, and performance. Artists at Kala are encouraged to work across disciplines, produce innovative artwork of the highest quality, and are given total freedom to realize their artistic vision using media that span the Gutenberg to digital eras. Kala offers access to equipment, time, and space to cultivate creative projects. Kala's studios provide tools for printmaking, photography, video, installation, and digital media. Kala fosters a fresh approach to experimentation, as artists investigate the interface of digital work, work made by hand, work made in the studio, performance-based work that engages the community and everything in between. A spirit of exchange and education is nurtured through all Kala's community programs.

Kala's creative community builds bridges between the intense art-making environment of the Kala studios, located in the historic Heinz ketchup factory in Berkeley and life outside the studio in Kala's immediate neighborhood and far beyond. Additionally, Kala is committed to offering quality art education to the general public and public school children through its on-site and online program of classes and workshops, summer programs and its Artists-in-Schools program, established in 1991, providing multiple week artist-led instruction to students in neighboring East Bay public schools.

Celebrating Kala's 49th year, Art Kala 2023 brings together Kala's creative community and features the inventive and meaningful art being made in the Bay Area. Art Kala 2023 with Honorary Auction Chair Jules Roman will open the auction benefit exhibition on March 30th with a free, family friendly preview party and will close the exhibition on May 13, 2023 with a festive closing party with food, drinks, music, a live auction and a short program honoring three local artists Pantea Karimi, Gregory Rick, and Jos Sances. Art Kala 2023 will take place at: Kala Gallery, 2990 San Pablo Avenue, Berkeley, California 94702. All proceeds support Kala's arts education and community arts programs.

More information can be found at: <http://www.kala.org/gallery/spring-gala-and-auction/>.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

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

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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

CONTACT PERSON

Councilmember Sophie Hahn, (510) 981-7150

Attachments: 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, Kala Art Institute is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping artists sustain their creative work over time through its Artist-in-Residence and Fellowship Programs, and to engaging the community through exhibitions, public programs, and education; and

WHEREAS, since 1974, Kala has grown steadily in the breadth of its offerings and in the size of its operation, yet remains true to its mission to be a workshop of ideas and to engage the community through exhibitions, education, and public programs; and

WHEREAS, Kala serves 35,000 individuals yearly through artist residencies, exhibitions, and community workshops, and through its Artists-in-Schools program provides curriculum-based visual arts education to children in neighboring public schools in Berkeley, Emeryville, and Oakland; and

WHEREAS, Kala's constituents range from 5 to 95 years old and represent a diverse group of participants including local residents and visiting artists from all states and countries – representing an international spectrum of backgrounds and experience – with Bay Area artists representing 85% of participants in Kala's artist residencies; and

WHEREAS, Art Kala 2023 brings together Kala's creative community and features inventive and meaningful art being made in the Bay Area, honoring Pantea Karimi, Gregory Rick, and Jos Sances; with a VIP Print by Pavel Acevedo;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that funds relinquished by the Mayor and Councilmembers from their Council Office Budget, up to \$500 per office, including \$250 from the office of Councilmember Hahn and \$500 from the office of Councilmember Taplin, shall be granted to the Kala Art Institute to support Art Kala 2023 and to celebrate Kala's 49th year of sustaining the creative work of Berkeley artists.

