

**BEN BARTLETT**

VICE MAYOR

CONSENT CALENDAR

April 25, 2023

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Vice Mayor Ben Bartlett (Author)

Subject: Celebración Cultural Sylvia Mendez (Spring Cultural Celebration) by the Sylvia Mendez School PTA: Relinquishment of Council Office Budget Funds to General Fund and Grant of Such Funds

RECOMMENDATION:

Approve the expenditure of funds, including \$1,000 from the discretionary council office budget of Vice Mayor Ben Bartlett, to the Sylvia Mendez Elementary School PTA to host a Spring Cultural Celebration event on April 30, 2023, in the courtyard on campus. The funds will be relinquished to the City's General Fund from the discretionary council office budget of Vice Mayor Ben Bartlett and the discretionary council office budgets of any other City Councilmembers who would like to contribute.

BACKGROUND:

This year, the Berkeley Unified School District's (BUSD) only Two-Way Immersion school, Sylvia Mendez Elementary (Sylvia Mendez), will host a Cultural Celebration to celebrate the global heritage, culture, and nationalities of its community. Community members are creating teams to determine the information, tastes, crafts, dress, music, and performances they would like to share at the event. The event will feature food catered by local ethnic restaurants, but teams may bring additional homemade items to share with the greater community.

This is Sylvia Mendez's inaugural Cultural Celebration, though the PTA Executive Committee hopes it will grow into an annual event. With such a diverse community, Sylvia Mendez seeks to contextualize some of our students' cultural influence and background.

To ensure the funds are properly disbursed and provided to offset some of the costs associated with this event, the funds should be sent to the Sylvia Mendez PTA organization to distribute accordingly. This parent-led committee is already funding the majority of the costs of the event and has been a reliable resource to offset budget shortfalls. The donations ultimately support the program guidelines laid out by BUSD (on the [Sylvia Mendez Elementary website](https://www.berkeleyschools.net/schools/elementary-schools/sylviamentez-elementary/)<sup>1</sup>), which is to "develop long-lasting

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.berkeleyschools.net/schools/elementary-schools/sylviamentez-elementary/>



**BEN BARTLETT**

VICE MAYOR

relationships and cultural appreciation for peers who are often separated by race and language.” This is further defined as the vision of the [school on its website](#)<sup>2</sup> “to seek to honor and understand families.”

This event is particularly important to rebuild the community, especially in light of the lack of events over the course of the last few years due to the pandemic. As our schools seek to recover from the social damage due to COVID-19, events like this help foster and build a greater understanding of the families within and the development of our community.

**ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY:**

No negative impact.

**FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION**

No General Fund impact; \$1,000 is available from the discretionary council office budget of Vice Mayor Ben Bartlett. The cost is as follows: Sylvia Mendez School PTA: Celebración Cultural (Spring Cultural Celebration).

**CONTACT PERSON:**

Vice Mayor Ben Bartlett  
James Chang

[bbartlett@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:bbartlett@cityofberkeley.info)  
[jchang@cityofberkeley.info](mailto:jchang@cityofberkeley.info)

**ATTACHMENT:**

1. Resolution

---

<sup>2</sup> <http://sylviamendezschool.org/en/welcome-eng>



**BEN BARTLETT**

VICE MAYOR

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

AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF SURPLUS FUNDS FROM THE OFFICE EXPENSE ACCOUNTS OF THE MAYOR AND COUNCILMEMBERS FOR A DONATION TO THE SYLVIA MENDEZ SCHOOL PTA TO PROVIDE SUPPORT FOR A SPRING CULTURAL CELEBRATION EVENT.

**WHEREAS**, Vice Mayor Ben Bartlett has surplus funds in his office expenditure account; and

**WHEREAS**, Sylvia Mendez School PTA, a California non-profit organization, will receive funds in the amount of \$1,000 from Vice Mayor Ben Bartlett's office expenditure account; and

**WHEREAS**, the Sylvia Mendez School PTA supports equitable public education for students, families, and our community through grants and volunteer programs; and

**WHEREAS**, the provisions of such services would fulfill the municipal public purpose of providing students and the youth with opportunities through educational programs and activities to encourage them to learn and embrace cultural diversity;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** by the Council of the City of Berkeley that funds relinquished by the Mayor and Councilmembers from their office budgets, of an amount to be determined by each Councilmember, shall be granted to Sylvia Mendez School PTA for this purpose of supporting students and the youth in highlighting cultural heritage that forms the community of the student body.

