



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Community Services
Department No.: 057
Agenda Date: August 26, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Jesús Armas, Community Services Director
Contact: Sarah York Rubin, Executive Director, Office of Arts and Culture
SUBJECT: Approve an Agreement with The Fund for Santa Barbara to administer a fifth cycle of the County of Santa Barbara Racial Equity Grant Program

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JA

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve, ratify, and authorize the Chair to execute the Regranting Agreement with The Fund for Santa Barbara administration of a Racial Equity Grant Program for a total maximum contract amount not to exceed \$275,000.00 for the period of September 15, 2025, through June 30, 2027 ("Agreement"); and
- b) Determine that the above recommended action is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15378(b)(4), as the action involves the creation of government funding mechanisms or other government fiscal activities which do not involve any commitment to any specific project which may result in a potentially significant physical impact on the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is presented to the Board of Supervisors ("Board") for approval of an Agreement (Attachment A) with the Fund for Santa Barbara ("The Fund") to administer the fifth cycle of the County of Santa Barbara Racial Equity Grant Program ("Equity Grant"). For Fiscal Year 2025- 26, the Board appropriated \$275,000 for the Equity Grant.

Discussion:

Since the County established the Racial Equity Grant in 2021, the Board has allocated \$275,000 annually and has contracted with The Fund for each cycle of program administration. The Fund has effectively carried out this role for four cycles, consistently meeting performance expectations and working collaboratively with the County.

Administrative services provided by The Fund include developing program guidelines, facilitating the application and review process, making award recommendations, and distributing funds to subgrantees. County staff continues to work closely with The Fund to refine the program and ensure alignment with County standards, priorities, and administrative workflow.

The recommended action is for the Board to approve entering into an agreement with The Fund to administer the 2025–2026 Equity Grant cycle. The agreement outlines the scope of services, funding allocation, and expected milestones for successful program delivery.

Background:

In 2021, in recognition of the ongoing impacts of systemic racism and the murder of George Floyd, the Board established the Equity Grant to invest in local organizations advancing culture, policy, and systems change that promote racial equity and justice in Santa Barbara County. The County partnered with The Fund to develop and administer the program,

The 2025–2027 Equity Grant program is proposed to be announced by October 1, 2025, or upon execution of the Agreement. Grant applications will be due December 8, 2025, with funding recommendations anticipated to be presented to the Board for approval in March 2026. The grantee activity period will run from April 2026 through March 2027, and a final report from The Fund will be due no later than June 2027.

Contract Renewals:

This agreement is a renewal of services with The Fund, which has successfully administered the County's Equity Grant since its launch in 2021. There was no competitive bid process, as The Fund has met all performance outcomes and brings an established grantmaking process, history of diverse community engagement, as well as program expertise.

Key performance milestones include:

- Announcement of the grant opportunity by October 1, 2025 (or upon contract execution);
- Workshops and applicant support; and
- Submittal of The Fund's Grantmaking Committee's recommended awardees to the Board of Supervisors for approval, anticipated in March 2026; and
- Submission of a final report on demographics and communities served, no later than June 30, 2027.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

The Board appropriated a \$275,000 set aside in the CSD FY 2025-26 Budget for the Equity Grant.

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY [2026]	Total
General Fund	275,000	275,000
State		
Federal		
Fees		
Total	275,000	275,000

Staffing Impacts:

The project falls within the existing scope of work for the Office of Arts and Culture.

Special Instructions:

Please send one copy of the minute order to Hannah Rubalcava, Office of Arts and Culture Grants and Contracts Manager, at hannah@sbac.ca.gov.

Attachments:

Attachment A – 25-27 Regranting Agreement with The Fund for Santa Barbara

Attachment B – COSB 25-27 Racial Equity Grant Program Guidelines and Application

Contact Information:

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