



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

**Department Name:** Community Services  
**Department No.:** 057  
**For Agenda Of:** June 18, 2024  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimated Time:**  
**Continued Item:** N/A  
**If Yes, date from:**  
**Vote Required:** Majority

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors  
**FROM:** Department Jesús Armas, Community Services Director (805) 568-2467  
Director

**SUBJECT:** Formation of a Santa Barbara Bowl Ad Hoc Committee

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**County Counsel Concurrence**

As to form: Yes

**Auditor-Controller Concurrence**

As to form: N/A

**Other Concurrence:**

As to form: N/A

**Recommended Actions:**

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve the formation of a Santa Barbara Bowl Ad Hoc Committee, and appoint Supervisor Das Williams and Supervisor Joan Hartman; and
- b) Determine that the formation of the Ad Hoc Committee is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) because pursuant to section 15378(b)(5), the recommended action consists of government organizational, administrative or fiscal activities which will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment.

**Summary Text:**

During the April Budget Workshops, the Board of Supervisors unanimously expressed support for fostering discussions with the leadership of the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation (Foundation) to explore avenues for enhancing the Arts Subsidy annual contribution generated from a per-ticket charge pursuant to the County's contract with the Foundation, which directly supports the free public arts and culture programs, grants, and services offered by the County.

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors, Chair Lavagnino sent a letter, dated April 25, 2024, to Rick Boller, Foundation Executive Director, and Karen Kerns, Chair of the Foundation Board of Directors, expressing the Board of Supervisors' position. In part, the letter urged continued collaboration between the County and the Foundation to discuss avenues to increase the Arts Subsidy contributions, whether it takes the form of adjusting the per-ticket fee structure, or some other mechanism.

The letter concluded by stating: “The goal remains the same: ensuring that the arts remain accessible and continue to thrive for generations to come. Our hope is to discuss a fee structure more in line with the Foundation’s Outreach Program funding strategy. We look forward to initiating this dialogue in the near future.”

**Background:**

Subsequent to the Budget Workshops, on May 14, staff presented proposed modifications to County Code Chapter 7A - “County Arts Plan” to help clarify legislative intent and streamline existing County public art funding allocation processes. The Board approved the recommended changes, and introduced the ordinance (first reading). The ordinance was adopted (second reading) on June 4, 2024.

In the course of its deliberations, the Board inquired whether the Foundation had responded to the April 25 letter. At that time, staff indicated the County was still waiting for a response. To move the process forward, Supervisor Hartman suggested formation of an Ad Hoc Committee to engage in discussions with the Foundation, and staff was directed to bring forward a Board Letter to authorize formation of the Committee. Supervisors Hartman and Williams volunteered to serve on the Committee.

**Special Instructions:**

- 1) Please send a copy of the minute order to Jesús Armas, [jarmas@countyofsb.org](mailto:jarmas@countyofsb.org)

**Attachments:**

Attachment A Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation Letter

**Authored by:** Jesús Armas, Director