



**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: April 7, 2026
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, Director, Community Services Department
Contact: Sarah York Rubin, Executive Director, Office of Arts and Culture
SUBJECT: Approve Amended Grant Agreement Between the County of Santa Barbara and the City of Santa Barbara for the Bloomberg Asphalt Art Initiative; Second Supervisorial District

DS
JA

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Risk

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve, authorize, and ratify the Community Services Department Director or his designee to execute an amendment to an agreement ("Agreement") with the City of Santa Barbara ("City") to receive a grant of \$100,000 for the period of January 1, 2026 through June 30, 2026 for the County's Office of Arts and Culture ("SBCOAC") to produce a Bloomberg Philanthropies Asphalt Art Initiative in Santa Barbara (Attachment A); and
- b) Determine that the recommended actions are not a project subject to the California Environmental Quality Act under CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(5), as the project involves minor surface-level alterations to an existing public facility with negligible or no expansion of existing use. The project will not result in significant environmental impacts, and no further environmental review is required.

Summary Text:

This item is presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval of an Amendment to the FY 2025-26 Arts Services Agreement (Attachment A) with the City. This amendment provides funding to the SBCOAC to help implement and administer a Bloomberg Philanthropies Asphalt Art Initiative grant.

Services performed under the amended agreement include public art development and installation, community engagement, and related administrative tasks. To support the expanded scope of work,

the City will provide an additional \$100,000, increasing the existing contract amount from \$461,986 to \$561,986.

The grant will fund the design, materials and installation of painted asphalt art crosswalks and curb extensions at the intersection of State Street and Carrillo Street. Additionally, the project integrates art with existing physical safety elements, including traffic bollards, planter barriers at the intersection, reflective delineators of pedestrian space, and overhead pedestrian lighting.

Installation of the asphalt art is scheduled for April and May 2026. For the project, the City Public Works Department provides ongoing traffic engineering, design review, and site maintenance support.

Discussion:

For over 40 years, SBCOAC has served as the City's contracted arts agency, overseeing arts administration, grants, and public art installations. The City, in collaboration with SBCOAC, successfully submitted a proposal for a Bloomberg Philanthropies Asphalt Art Initiative Grant of \$100,000. In the current cycle, Santa Barbara is one of four cities in the United States to receive the award out of more than 300 applicants.

The Bloomberg Asphalt Art Initiative is an international placemaking and safety grant that uses art and design to improve street safety, activate public spaces, and engage the community in the public realm. Through artistic treatments applied directly to street surfaces, the program is intended to enhance pedestrian visibility, calm traffic, and create more welcoming and culturally expressive public spaces. Asphalt art projects are quickly and easily implementable, and awarded cities test potential long-term roadway designs concepts through temporary installations.

As part of the project, City and SBOAC staff participate in monthly trainings with Bloomberg Philanthropies and TY Lin Group, a global engineering firm. Workshop topics include design consultation, traffic metrics, and engineering considerations.

Background:

The project is intended to enhance pedestrian safety, visually define the Santa Barbara Farmers Market's Saturday location, and contribute to downtown vibrancy. The design allows for flexible use of the roadway and will not impact future use of the space. The design concept honors local Mixtec and Zapotec culture through a series of artistic and graphic elements developed by the project's lead artists. Specialized infrastructure epoxy paint will be used on the street, and the City is committed to keeping the artwork in place for at least two years.

Bloomberg Philanthropies' studies of 30 municipalities have found that asphalt art projects in high-use corridors resulted in a 50% decrease in the rate of crashes involving pedestrians or other vulnerable road users, 37% decrease in the rate of crashes leading to injuries, 25% decrease in pedestrian crossings involving a conflict with drivers, 27% increase in frequency of drivers immediately yielding to pedestrians with the right of way; and a 38% decrease in pedestrians crossing against the walk signal.

Contract Renewals:

This Agreement expands existing services under the City-County Arts Services Agreement, which is in the first year of a two-year cycle.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: No

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 25-26	Total
City of Santa Barbara	\$100,000	\$100,000
Total	\$100,000	\$100,000

Staffing Impacts:

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

Special Instructions:

Please send email a copy of the minute order to Teralyn Evans-Gutiérrez at Tegutierrez@countyofsb.org and Brandon Beaudette at Bbeaudette@santabarbarava.gov.

Attachments:

Attachment A – City-County 2025-26 Arts Services Amended Agreement

Contact Information:

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