



**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER**

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

Agenda Number:

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: General
Services/Community
Services
Department No.: 063/057
Agenda Date: March 18, 2025
Placement: Departmental Agenda
Estimated Time: 15 Minutes
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department Directors: Kirk Lagerquist, Director, General Services;
Jesús Armas, Director, Community Services
Contact Info: Ted Teyber, Assistant Director, General Services (805) 568-3083

Signed by:
Edward Teyber
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SUBJECT: Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation Annual Report for 2023; First District

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Receive and file the 2023 Annual Report for operations at the Santa Barbara Bowl; and
- b) Find that the proposed action is an organizational or administrative activity that will not result in direct or indirect physical changes in the environment and is therefore not a project under CEQA Guidelines 14 CCR 15378(b)(5).

Summary Text:

The current 45-year Management and Lease Agreement (Agreement) between the County and the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation (SBBF) was approved by the Board of Supervisors on May 17, 2011. Section 22 (C) of the Agreement requires the Foundation to submit an annual report by October 15 of each year for the previous year. Attached is a copy of the Annual Report for 2023. The recommended action for this Board letter is to receive and file the Santa Barbara Bowl's annual report. At the Board meeting for this item, representatives of the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation Board of Directors will present highlights of the annual report.

Background:

The Santa Barbara Bowl is a world-class 4,562 seat entertainment, culture and arts venue located at 1122 N. Milpas Street in Santa Barbara. Originally constructed in 1936 as a Works Progress Administration (WPA) project, the Santa Barbara Bowl is a County owned property, managed and operated under the direction of the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation. On June 28, 1994, the County entered into a lease with the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation for long term management of the Bowl facility. The Foundation had already existed as a California non-profit public benefit organization since 1981. On May 17, 2011, the SBBF renewed its lease agreement with the County for a period of 45 years beginning June 1, 2011. The SBBF has an option to extend the lease for another 25 years. Responsibility of all costs for maintenance, repairs, improvements, and operations relating to the property rests solely with the Foundation.

In 2023, the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation recorded total revenues of \$11,167,400, marking an increase from the \$7,229,471 generated in 2022. 2023 fundraising revenue totaled \$1,140,576, a slight decrease from \$1,374,028 in 2022. However, operational revenue in 2023 saw an 18% increase of \$1,309,185 from 2022.

In 2023, organizational expenditures (comprising all expenses except for capital improvements) rose to \$8,815,967, a notable increase from the \$5,806,041 and \$8,423,058 recorded in 2021 and 2022, respectively. This increase can be attributed to the greater number of concerts held in 2022 and 2023. It is important to note that these expenses encompass a depreciation expense of \$1,203,663.

Included as Attachment B is the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation Financial Statements as of December 31, 2023 prepared by Armanino LLP, Woodland Hills.

The Santa Barbara Bowl Outreach committee has a goal to provide resources and build partnerships that enhance performing arts exposure and education in the greater Santa Barbara Community. This outreach effort Funded over \$641,246 in grants, scholarships, instrument funding, sponsorships, and community tickets. See Attachment C for further details.

Arts Subsidy

As one component of the Bowl Foundation's commitment to supporting the local arts community, beginning in 2010, the Foundation contributes an annual payment to the Santa Barbara Arts Commission. The Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation Arts Subsidy is intended to promote the public's appreciation and access to cultural arts in the Santa Barbara community. Per the existing lease agreement, the arts subsidy contribution is the equivalent of \$0.50 per ticket sale, with a cap of \$56,750 per season. Since 2011 the total contribution to the Arts Subsidy Program has been \$542,114. In the 2023 concert season, this contribution was at the capped amount of \$56,750 based on ticket sales of 146,734.

The lease provides that the cap amount is to be adjusted every five years based on changes to the Consumer Price Index. The next change will be calculated later this year, once the CPI for March 2025 is published.

Last year, the Board authorized formation of Ad Hoc Committee to engage in discussions with the Bowl Foundation Board to explore opportunities to increase funding to the Arts Subsidy Program. While the discussions have yet to yield a specific proposal to present to the Board, the exchange of information has been fruitful, and conversations are on-going.

The Bowl Foundation requested an opportunity to share information with the Board regarding not only its support for the Arts Subsidy Program, but also its contributions to other community events and activities. The Ad Hoc concurs, and the Foundation's Executive Director will be present to offer a brief presentation.

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Attachments:

Attachment A – Annual Report of the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation -- 2023

Attachment B – Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation Financial Statement, December 31, 2023

Attachment C – 2023 Outreach Impact Report