



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: March 10, 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 Info: Sarah York Rubin, Executive Director, Office of Arts and Culture
SUBJECT: County of Santa Barbara Racial Equity Grant Program Award Disbursement Recommendations

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence:

As to form: N/A

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Approve and authorize Fund for Santa Barbara, Inc. ("The Fund") to disburse the County of Santa Barbara's Racial Equity Grant Program ("Grant Program") funds to selected applicants (Attachment A) through June 30, 2027 and in accordance with the Regranting Agreement between the County and The Fund, executed on October 15, 2024; 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), because they consist of administrative activities that will not result in a direct or indirect physical change to the environment.

Summary Text:

This item is before the Board of Supervisors to approve and authorize The Fund to enter into contracts disbursing Grant Program funds to the twelve recommended grant applicants listed in Attachment A. The funding available for this program is \$275,000, which was appropriated by the Board during the FY 25-26 Budget Hearings.

Established in 2020, the Grant Program is aimed at effecting the culture, policy, and systems changes necessary to advance racial equity and justice. The program provides funding to invest in and

strengthen organizations that actively support anti-discrimination, as well as communities marginalized by power structures.

Discussion:

At the June 17, 2025, budget hearing, the Board unanimously authorized a \$275,000 appropriation of Grant Program funds to be disbursed through a fifth grant-making cycle administered by The Fund. The Fund receives \$41,250 for program administration, which is deducted from the \$275,000 in Grant Program funds. The Regranting Agreement funding is disbursed in three payments. The first payment of \$18,563, issued on December 26, 2025, supported initial Grant Program administration. With Board approval, \$252,312 will be disbursed, including \$233,750 in grant funds and \$18,562 in administrative fees. The final payment of \$4,125 will be issued upon submission of the final report, including grantee reports.

Background:

On August 26, 2025, the Board executed the Regranting Agreement with The Fund to administer the Grant Program. The Regranting Agreement includes the condition that final award recommendations be presented to the Board for final approval prior to The Fund entering into contracts with selected grantees.

The Fund released a request for proposals on September 26, 2025, and offered a corresponding workshop. All applications were received and reviewed by The Fund's Grant Making Subcommittee, comprised of community members with diverse backgrounds. Their recommendations were approved by The Fund's Board of Directors on January 30, 2026.

Upon Board of Supervisors approval, The Fund will enter into grant agreements with the twelve selected recipients that outline the authorized usage of Grant Program funds (Attachment A). Grant award amounts range from \$3,500 to \$40,000, and the activity period will be for one year. All funding must be disbursed no later than June 30, 2027.

Per Board request at the August 26, 2025 meeting, staff is reviewing whether the administration of the grant program should be conducted internally. As indicated at that time, staff will return during the FY 2026–27 budget workshops with further information for the Board's consideration and direction.

Organizations Recommended for Funding:

For the Grant Program, \$233,750 in funding was available to grantees, and the maximum request amount was \$100,000. Twenty-two organizations submitted applications, requesting a total of \$1,433,036. Attachment A contains the list of all applicants and projects, including those not recommended for funding.

For the current cycle, twelve organizations were recommended for grant awards by The Fund. These include: Barbareño Chumash Tribal Council (BCTC), Collective Cultures Creating Change Lompoc (C4), Cultural and Creative Art Center of the Santa Maria Valley, Gateway Educational Services, Healing Justice Santa Barbara (HJSB), Martin Luther King Jr. Day Celebration Committee, Martin Luther King Jr. Committee, Santa Barbara, Museum of Contemporary Art Santa Barbara Inc, NAACP Santa Maria-Lompoc 1072, Radio Bilingue, Inc., Santa Barbara NAACP, and The Regents of the University of California, Santa Barbara: The Healing Space.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: Yes

Fiscal Analysis:

Funding Source	FY 2025- 2026	Total
General Fund	\$275,000	\$275,000
Total	\$275,000	\$275,000

Staffing Impacts:

This will have no additional staffing impact.

Special Instructions:

Please send a copy of the minute order to Eder Gaona-Macedo at egaona@fundforsantabarbara.org and Sarah York Rubin at srubin@countyofsb.org.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Grant Award Recommendations

Contact Information:

Sarah York Rubin
Executive Director, Office of Arts and Culture
srubin@countyofsb.org