



**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:** September 23, 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, Director, Community Services Department  
Contact: Sarah York Rubin, Executive Director, Office of Arts and Culture  
**SUBJECT:** Agreement Between the County of Santa Barbara and the City of Santa Barbara for  
FY 2025-2026 Arts and Culture Services and Programs

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**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 of the Board to execute an agreement ("Agreement") with the City of Santa Barbara ("City") to receive a grant in the amount of \$461,986, for the period of July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2026, for the County's Office of Arts and Culture ("SBCOAC") to implement and administer City arts and grant programs, and to provide related administrative services (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), 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 presented to the Board of Supervisors for approval of an Agreement (Attachment A) with the City of Santa Barbara for the County Office of Arts and Culture to manage City arts programs.

**Discussion:**

Each year, SBCOAC partners with the City through a service agreement to serve as its arts agency. For FY 2025–2026, the Agreement provides \$461,986 in funding, with \$222,023 to support staffing and administration, and \$239,963 allocated for regranteeing to local nonprofit arts organizations and artists. At the conclusion of FY 2025–2026, the City and County may mutually elect to extend the Agreement for one additional year for FY 2026–2027.

The Administrative Fee for FY 2025–2026 reflects a 2.5% increase from the previous fiscal year. Should the City extend the Agreement, the FY 2026–2027 Administrative Fee will increase by the lesser of 2.5% or the CPI percentage change as reported by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

**Background:**

The Santa Barbara County Office of Arts & Culture, a division of the Community Services Department, leads countywide cultural development through arts policy, grant administration, public art, education initiatives, and economic and regional planning in partnership with local, State, and federal agencies.

Through the ongoing County-City partnership, both governments share overhead and operating costs for the SBCOAC to administer arts services for constituents. The collaborative structure has sustained access to arts and culture for City and County residents for over four decades, allowing both entities to leverage shared resources, attract additional investment, and expand community access to cultural opportunities.

Services performed for the City by the SBCOAC include, but are not limited to: grant program management, public art production, gallery curation, policy development, Arts Advisory Committee and Community Events and Festivals Committee staffing, and stewardship of the Poet Laureate program.

**Contract Renewals:**

This Agreement is for a renewal of standing services.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

Budgeted: Yes

The revenue and expenditures associated with this Agreement have been included in the Office of Arts and Culture’s adopted FY 2025-2026 budget.

**Fiscal Analysis:**

| Funding Source               | FY 2025-26 | Total     |
|------------------------------|------------|-----------|
| Other: City of Santa Barbara | \$461,986  | \$461,986 |
| Total                        | \$461,986  | \$461,986 |

**Staffing Impacts:**

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

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**Special Instructions:**

1. Upon execution by all parties the Community Services Department will return a fully executed agreement to the Clerk of the Board for retention in the record.
2. Please email a copy of the minute order to Hannah Rubalcava at [hannah@sbac.ca.gov](mailto:hannah@sbac.ca.gov) and Teralyn Evans-Gutiérrez at [Tegutierrez@countyofsb.org](mailto:Tegutierrez@countyofsb.org).

**Attachments:**

**Attachment A** – City-County Arts Agreement 2025-2026

**Contact Information:**

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Executive Director, Office of Arts and Culture  
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