



**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: General Services
Department No.: 063
Agenda Date: November 4, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Directors: Kirk Lagerquist, Director, General Services
Contact Info: Ted Teyber, Assistant Director, General Services
SUBJECT: Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation Annual Report for 2024; 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 2024 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 2024.

Discussion:

In 2024 SBBF hosted 35 commercial concert events and two community concert events, which are detailed on page 9 of Attachment A to this board letter. SBBF continues to contract with Goldenvoice as their exclusive promoter and booker of the venue for commercial concerts.

The Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation recorded total revenues of \$11,167,400 in 2024, a \$1.1M increase from 2023. 2024 fundraising revenue comprised \$1,631,857 of this total revenue, which is a half-million dollar increase from 2023 fundraising revenue.

In 2024, organizational expenditures (comprising all expenses except for capital improvements) rose to \$9,486,419, a \$671,452 increase from 2023. It is important to note that these expenses encompass a depreciation expense of \$1,222,461.

Included as Attachment B is the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation Financial Statements as of December 31, 2024 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 education across Santa Barbara County. This outreach effort funded \$737,626 in grants, scholarships, instrument funding, sponsorships, and community tickets. Of this amount \$152,175 went directly to Santa Barbara County public schools music and performing arts education programs.

Arts Subsidy

As one component of the Bowl Foundation's commitment to supporting the local arts community, 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 \$598,864. In the 2024 concert season, this contribution was at the capped amount of \$56,750 based on ticket sales of 136,170. 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, and again every five-years following.

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 and ending May 31, 2056. SBBF has an additional option to extend the lease for another 25 years thereafter. Responsibility of all costs for maintenance, repairs, improvements, and operations relating to the property rests solely with the Foundation.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Annual Report of the Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation -- 2024

Attachment B – Santa Barbara Bowl Foundation Financial Statement, December 31, 2024

Attachment C – 2024 Outreach Impact Report