



Office of Councilmember
Max Anderson, District 3

CONSENT CALENDAR
May 22, 2007

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

FROM: Council Member Max Anderson

SUBJECT: Budget Referral: Malcolm X Neighborhood Arts Collaborative

RECOMMENDATION:

The Berkeley City Council refer to the budget process \$10,000 from the general fund for the Malcolm X Neighborhood Arts Collaborative for the sole purpose of development of a strategic plan in 2007/08. These funds will be used to hire a consultant to work with Malcolm X School and the more than 30 local agencies, neighborhood residents, parents and teachers connected with Malcolm X School and the South Berkeley neighborhood carrying-out a five-year planning process for the collaborative.

BACKGROUND:

Public schools in California's urban areas have been deeply impacted by the lack of funds available for education over the last thirty years. Cuts in funding for education have impacted the ability of schools to teach the fundamental academic material providing the building blocks needed for many children to succeed. This has directly and indirectly contributed to record high secondary school drop out rates, illiteracy, joblessness, homelessness, drug and alcohol use among teens and young people, high youth homicide and suicide rates, dramatic youth incarceration rates, teen pregnancy and other problems.

The City of Berkeley has taken a number of innovative steps in its efforts to counter the difficulties faced due to public school funding shortages. Still, in order to function effectively, best serving children and their families, today all public schools need to maximize resources available to them, to collaborate whenever possible with other organizations in providing services, and to harness the gifts of individual and corporate donors supporting school programs.

As a Federal Arts Magnet School and a California Distinguished School, Malcolm X is committed to the use of art as a vehicle for building self confidence in its students, for helping each child find their voice, for teaching academic and life skills material, and for community building celebrating diversity.

By working in collaboration with neighborhood arts and other organizations, Malcolm X seeks to optimize its campus-based arts programs and other resources and to develop its base of individual and corporate supporters.

It seeks to contribute to community revitalization through involving school children and their families, as well as other members of the community, in collaborative neighborhood-based arts activities including performances, murals and other creative programs.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

\$10,000 (one-time expense) for a strategic planning consultant (\$60 per hr. x 167 hrs. = \$10,000).

CONTACT PERSON:

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