



# County of San Mateo

## Inter-Departmental Correspondence

Department: COUNTY EXECUTIVE

File #: 22-833

Board Meeting Date: 11/1/2022

**Special Notice / Hearing:** None  
**Vote Required:** Majority

**To:** Honorable Board of Supervisors

**From:** Michael P. Callagy, County Executive

**Subject:** Use of District-Discretionary **Measure K** Funds - Supervisorial District 4

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**Measure K:** Adopt a resolution authorizing a one-time grant of district-discretionary **Measure K** funds, not to exceed \$20,000, to Casa Circulo for the Center for Creativity to support a feasibility study for the potential creation of a permanent arts center, and authorizing the County Executive, or designee, to execute the grant agreement.

### **BACKGROUND:**

**Measure K** is the half-cent general sales tax initially approved by San Mateo County voters in November 2012 and extended in November 2016 for a total of thirty years.

On March 9, 2021, and March 23, 2021, the Board of Supervisors (Board) held study sessions on **Measure K** expenditures and anticipated revenue for fiscal years (FY) 2021-23. The Board-appointed **Measure K** sub-committee, consisting of Supervisor Pine and Supervisor Canepa, convened the study sessions to, among other things, work with staff to facilitate the Board's development of **Measure K** priorities and continuing initiatives for FYs 2021-23. The Board approved \$5 million in one-time loans or grants for the FY 2021-23 budget cycle, divided equally among the five supervisorial districts, for district-discretionary needs and projects. District 4 has submitted a request to use their district-discretionary **Measure K** funds as shown below and described in the Project Summary section of this memorandum:

District/Project	Amount
District 4 (Supervisor Warren Slocum) - Casa Circulo for the Center for Creativity to support a feasibility study for the potential creation of a permanent arts facility	\$20,000

This item is consistent with the criteria for district-discretionary **Measure K** funds approved by the

Board in December 2018.

**PROJECT SUMMARY:**

This is a request to authorize a grant, not to exceed \$20,000, to Casa Circulo for the Center for Creativity to support a feasibility study for the potential creation of a permanent arts facility. The County Executive’s Office will administer and manage the proposed agreement.

A subcommittee of ARTS RWC, a roundtable of artists, arts advocates, arts organizations and civic leaders founded in 2010, began working to bring a permanent arts center to Redwood City that would serve everyone in San Mateo County. The subcommittee vision for the permanent arts center, named the Center for Creativity, includes support for a broad range of arts genres including visual art, theater, music, dance, interdisciplinary arts, art using technology, and immersive and interactive experiences.

The Center for Creativity conducted surveys in the fall of 2021, polling over 2,300 residents of Redwood City and the surrounding communities. The survey results reflected that 83% of adult respondents saw the need for and importance of an arts center in Redwood City and San Mateo County and that such a center would enhance life for the community. Some of the most compelling arguments in favor of a permanent arts center were accessibility to all for art classes, the healing aspect of art and creativity improving cross-cultural understanding.

The next step for the development of the Center for Creativity is to conduct a feasibility study to assess the need, programming, location, size, and operating models for a permanent arts center. The feasibility study will be completed in the Spring of 2023.

This Measure K grant would help fund a feasibility study to evaluate the potential creation of a permanent arts center.

**Total Measure K Request: Not to Exceed \$20,000**

The release of funds will be contingent on the execution of an agreement providing for the County’s confirmation of the expenditure of funds for the purposes stated herein. The County will disburse the funds to the following organization for the purposes described above:

Veronica Escamez  
Casa Circulo Cultural (Fiscal Agent for Center for Creativity)  
3090 Middlefield Road  
Redwood City, CA 94063  
[casacirculocultural@yahoo.com](mailto:casacirculocultural@yahoo.com) <<mailto:casacirculocultural@yahoo.com>>  
650-362-3291

**PERFORMANCE MEASURES:**

Description	Target
Feasibility study for the potential creation of a permanent arts center on the Peninsula.	Complete

The County Attorney's Office has reviewed and approved the agreement and resolution as to form.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

There are sufficient Measure K funds for this specific FY 2022-23 Measure K request. These funds are budgeted in the Non-Departmental Services FY 2022-23 Adopted Budget.