



## City Council Report

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Sacramento, CA 95814

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**File ID:** 2022-01075

May 17, 2022

**Discussion Item 04**

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**Title: Measure U Community Advisory Committee Recommendations Regarding Fiscal Year (FY) 2022/23 Priorities**

**Location:** Citywide

**Recommendation:** Receive and file.

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**Presenter:** Members of the Measure U Community Advisory Committee

**Attachments:**

1-Description/Analysis

2-Measure U Community Advisory Committee FY2022/23 Priorities and Recommendations

## **Description/Analysis**

**Issue Detail:** The Mayor and City Council established the Measure U Community Advisory Committee (Committee) in 2018 to ensure that the expenditures of City resources reflect Council and Community priorities (Resolution 2018-0393).

At its April 18, 2022 meeting, the Committee approved a letter (Attachment 2) to the City Council that outlines its priorities and recommendations for the FY2022/23 budget year. Specifically, the Committee's priorities are reflected in recommendations regarding metrics, participatory budgeting, affordable housing, homelessness, senior services, youth, community investment, violence prevention, high-wage job promotion, small business support, arts/Creative Edge, library services, and Measure U branding.

**Policy Considerations:** City Council Resolution 2018-0393 adopted October 2, 2018 outlines the purpose, and the powers and duties of the Measure U Committee. Specifically, the Resolution states, to ensure that the expenditures of City resources reflect Council and community priorities, the Committee shall review, report, and make non-binding recommendations on revenue and expenditures of certain funds from the Transactions and Use Tax (Sacramento City Code chapter 3.27.).

**Economic Impacts:** None.

### **Environmental Considerations:**

**California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA):** This report concerns administrative activities and governmental fiscal activities that do not constitute a "project" as defined by the CEQA Guidelines Sections 15378(b)(2) and 15378(b)(4) and are not subject to the provisions of CEQA (CEQA Guidelines Section 15060(c)(3)).

**Sustainability:** None.

**Commission/Committee Action:** The priorities in this report were approved by the Committee on April 18, 2022. The Budget and Audit Committee received the priorities on May 6, 2022 and requested that they be presented to the City Council.

**Rationale for Recommendation:** None.

**Financial Considerations:** Council may need to reallocate existing commitments to implement the Committee's recommendations and maintain a balanced budget.

**Local Business Enterprise (LBE):** None.

## **Measure U Budget Recommendations 2022 - 2023**

April 18, 2022

Mayor and Councilmembers  
City of Sacramento  
New City Hall  
915 I Street  
Sacramento, CA 95815

### **RE: Measure U Recommendations to Council FY 22/23**

Dear Mayor Steinberg and Councilmembers:

City Council Resolution 2018-0393 adopted October 2, 2018, outlines the purpose and the powers and duties of the Measure U Committee specifically, to ensure that the expenditures of City resources reflect Council and community priorities, the committee shall review, report, and make non-binding recommendations on revenue and expenditures of certain funds from the Transactions and Use Tax (Sacramento City Code chapter 3.27.).

In addition to services previously supported by the original Measure U, the 2018 ballot initiative specified the following uses: other essential services, including homeless supportive services, affordable housing, libraries, park maintenance, high-wage job promotion, and youth programming. When the City Council adopted the FY 2021/22 Operating Budget, the Council directed the City Manager to realign the Measure U expenditures to better reflect Council's priorities for the use of the revenues. A guiding question for the Committee in developing these recommendations is: What services are we able to provide that we weren't able to provide before the 2018 Measure U was passed to meet the most pressing needs in our communities?

Under this authorization and with this guiding framework, we provide the following recommendations regarding the 2022-2023 budget.

**Metrics:** Admittedly, the Committee was disappointed to learn that the city's plans to publish a dashboard with the City's performance measures (defined outcomes and assessment of progress listed on [page 41-43](#) of the 21/22 budget) are on hold until because of technical issues. We want to reiterate the importance of systematically tracking performance metrics that describe the outcomes (how well programs are functioning and their human impact) and not just inputs and outputs of City operations. We also reiterate a previous recommendation to conduct a neighborhood analysis of equity in investments. Additionally, it would be helpful to have a Spending Database for the City. This would provide a mechanism to have a better idea of investments by neighborhood, income, race/ethnicity, and language spoken and to develop geographic- and demographic-specific plans for future spending.

**Participatory Budgeting [\$2.5 million]:** We recommend \$2.5 million in additional funding: \$500,000 for consultants, outreach activities/media, and evaluation. We also recommend at least \$2 million in additional funding for community-identified projects.

**Affordable Housing:** We recommend that funding be spent on direct financial investments to drive in state and federal match dollars for affordable housing and homelessness prevention by supporting Sacramento residents in maintaining housing through mortgage and rental assistance and providing additional gap funding for new affordable housing developments.

To this end, we recommend contributing Measure U funds to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund be allocated for development of place based neighborhood planning, which includes: home repair and waived code enforcement fees for elderly and/or low-income homeowners, first-time home buyers' program, homelessness prevention programs and jobs enterprise efforts for historically underserved neighborhoods, e.g. Glen Elder, Gardenland, Del Paso Heights, Meadowview.

**Homelessness:** Continue to use Measure U funds for direct programs and services responsible for moving individuals and families into more stable environments, addressing barriers, and moving people from homelessness to housing. We reiterate our recommendation from the FY 21-22 mid-year letter that funding be spent to 1) add to the current \$2.8 million *Homeless Housing Initiatives* allocation to expand service provision beyond women and children under 14 to include older children, people of other genders, and veterans; 2) add to the allocation to *Respite Centers* to expand the availability of shelter for inclement weather and Safe Ground sites. In addition, directly funding the development of permanent supportive housing including through Project Homekey and transitional housing is critical to the success of the City's efforts to end homelessness. Measure U funds should also be directed to supporting those important efforts.

**Senior Services:** We have a growing elderly population in Sacramento with unique needs that the city should identify and support. We recommend funding be spent to expand the service hours, geographic availability, and language access to services such as Hart Senior Center, Triple R Program, 50+ Wellness Program, Caring Neighborhoods Program, Stanford Settlement, Tech Connections, and Information and Assistance Program.

**Youth:** We are pleased that funds from Measure U have been invested in youth. The Committee recommends that the Council continue to prioritize investing in programs and services for youth, especially those from historically underserved communities, provided by the City and in partnership with community-based organizations, to ensure community well-being. We recommend that funding be spent to expand programming for youth K-12, youth under 26, culturally relevant services for Native and Hmong youth as well as youth from refugee families and to support a protected and earmarked city fund for children and youth.

Expanding on the recommendation above for performance metrics, contained within the Spending Database for the City should be a list of organizations that have received funding from the youth development grant program and the zip codes of the youth served to understand and assure that MU funds are being used to serve the communities with demonstrated need and to make recommendations for future funding to fill gaps.

**Community Investment:** We want to emphasize the important role of Community Centers in serving a variety of neighborhoods and demographics and encourage the Council to consider increasing investments in their services and operations.

We also reiterate previous recommendations to only include in the youth line item investments that are *specific* to youth. Some investments – which we support and are important parts of city infrastructure – are best categorized as general Community Investments: examples include Aquatics, Camp Sacramento, and the Sacramento Zoo.

**Violence Prevention:** community violence prevention programs by age and zip

**High wage job promotion** (inclusive economic development): In addition to the \$2 million toward the Housing Trust fund outlined below to provide similar services (which include jobs enterprise) to those in Aggie Square to another neighborhood in need, the Committee focused its attention on bolstering an existing program: Thousand Strong. Currently participation is low and costly to employers. Additional investments could turn this into a meaningful and effective job training program for youth.

**Small Business support [\$800,000]:** For façade improvement grants to allow businesses / property owners to apply for funds to fix vandalized windows and doors that are often destroyed after hours or during a business burglary. One suggestion to ensure access is to use a ranking system that would prioritize the geographical areas where there has been historical lack of public investment to ensure that this type of programming would reach across the city to ensure the areas of our city that don't have PBIDs (e.g. Gardenland/Northgate, North Sac, Freeport, Meadowview) have access to the funding.

**Arts/Creative Edge:** We recommend additional Measure U investments in this category be focused on youth in traditionally underserved communities.

**Library:** We recommend adding funding to support additional staffing and operating expenses to expand hours of service to 8 hours per day at least 6 days per week. Operating hours should be responsive to community needs and use.

**Branding Measure U Funding:** In the mid-year 21/22 recommendations, the Committee recommends that the City brand Measure U investments in the city by directing staff to develop a logo, identify sign placement and assess printing and installation costs. We are pleased that the City adopted our recommendation to develop a logo as well as a communication plan that will be utilized by all departments receiving Measure U funds.

Thank you for considering these recommendations and for the opportunity to serve our community in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

The Measure U Community Advisory Committee