

AGENDA ITEM 9.03

California Cultural and Historical Endowment Board Meeting
9/29/2011

STAFF REPORT

GRANTEE: Vallejo Community Arts Foundation
PROJECT: Empress Theatre Improvements
LOCATION: Vallejo
PROJECT SUMMARY: This project will improve stage lighting, upgrade the projection system, provide for stage and production upgrades, correct ADA issues, secure building access, provide improved directional and emergency signage and fire alarm additions.
FUNDING RESERVED: \$350,000
FUNDING RESERVATION DATE: Not Applicable: On Wait List
FUNDING APPROVAL DATE:
IN GRANT AGREEMENT?:
GRANT AGREEMENT TERM:
FUNDING ROUND: Funding Round 4

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Created in 1911, the Empress Theatre is a Vallejo City landmark and one of California’s last remaining vaudeville and film theaters built in the ornate Beaux Arts style. Although it has been known by several other names throughout the years, the recent restoration project has returned grandeur to the theatre befitting of its name. The Empress Theatre is operated and managed by the Vallejo Community Arts Foundation (VCAF), a nonprofit public benefit corporation. CCHE Round 4 funding will improve stage lighting, upgrade the projection system, provide for stage and production upgrades, correct ADA issues, secure building access, provide improved directional and emergency signage and fire alarm additions.

REQUEST

Applicant seeks approval of funding in the amount of \$343,850.

BUDGET DETAIL

	CCHE Budget	Match
Building and Facility Costs:	\$49,350	\$0
Interpretive Exhibit/Cap. Asset Costs:	\$254,500	\$0
Contingency Costs:	\$20,000	\$0
Indirect/Admin:	\$20,000	\$0
Total:	\$343,850	\$0

CEQA STATUS

CCHE staff has independently reviewed the environmental effects of the Project and concurs with the Lead Agency for this Project, City of Vallejo, Development Services Department, that the Project is exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) under Section 15331, Historical Resource Restoration/Rehabilitation of the CEQA Guidelines. The Project consists of improvements and upgrades to stage and projection systems, security and safety upgrades, and ADA

compliance in a manner consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties.

PROPERTY ARRANGEMENT

Valljeo Community Arts Foundation has access to property per a 30 year long term lease agreement with option to purchase with the City of Vallejo dated 10/3/2006.

MATCH REQUIREMENT

The applicant requested an elimination of match due to local economic despair.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends the Board approve the request for complete elimination of match, find that the project is eligible for the CEQA exemption cited above and approve the award in the amount of \$343,850.

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