

Title	<p>Culinary Bridges - A Multiracial Solidarity and Storytelling Project</p> <p>by Gaby Sanchez in 2024 Cultural Arts and Arts Programming RFP</p> <p>2150 Allston Way 340 Berkeley, California 94704 United States admin@justcitiesinstitute.org</p>	<p>03/21/2024</p> <p>id. 45981897</p>
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Original Submission	03/21/2024
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Score	n/a
Enter the name of your public art proposal	Culinary Bridges - A Multiracial Solidarity and Storytelling Project
Are you a nonprofit organization or government agency?	Yes
Please provide the name of the nonprofit organization or public entity submitting this proposal	Just Cities Institute
Please provide the name of primary point of contact.	Maurice Wilkins
Provide the daytime phone number for the primary point of contact	+12026412747
Provide the email address for the primary point of contact	maurice@justcitiesinstitute.org
Please provide the name of secondary point of contact	Gaby Sanchez

Provide the daytime phone number of the secondary point of contact

+19256399558

Provide the email address for the secondary point of contact

gaby@justcitiesinstitute.org

Please provide the address for the organization or public entity submitting this proposal

2150 Allston Way
Suite 340
Berkeley
CA
94704
US
37.86916
-122.26649

Which level of grant are you requesting?

\$5,000 or \$10,000

Where will the proposed cultural arts or arts programming be held?

Bay Farm (other than Harbor Bay)

Please describe the organization's interest in the project, initial vision for the work, and relevant experience or background (Letter of Interest).

The Just Cities Institute's upcoming "Culinary Bridges" project in Alameda, set for June 2024, embodies an innovative approach to using food and storytelling as powerful tools for promoting racial and social justice. This initiative aims to leverage the universal language of food to celebrate Alameda County's diverse culinary heritage, particularly focusing on the traditions of Black, Latinx, Southeast Asian, and Indigenous communities. By doing so, it seeks to highlight the interconnectedness of these communities' experiences, emphasizing solidarity in the face of systemic injustices.

Drawing inspiration from global examples, such as the asylum seeker and refugee food initiatives in Ireland (Murphy 2019) and women's solidarity economy initiatives in the Philippines (Ofreneo and Hega 2016), the Culinary Bridges project recognizes the profound impact food can have in fostering community bonds, facilitating cultural exchange, and empowering marginalized groups. These examples illustrate food's potential to nourish, heal, and unite, offering valuable lessons for Just Cities Institute's efforts in Alameda.

The project brings together local chefs to share culturally significant dishes and their stories. This approach not only showcases Alameda's rich culinary landscape but also builds a shared understanding among its residents. This focus on food as a medium for storytelling and community bonding is integral to the Institute's broader mission of advancing racial equity and social justice through community engagement and empowerment.

The execution of the Culinary Bridges project will benefit from the diverse expertise within the Just Cities Institute team. Maurice Wilkins' experience in organizing culinary experiences will be pivotal in creating an engaging and meaningful event. Jose Corona's insights into the Bay Area's social justice landscape will ensure the inclusion of essential partners, while Gaby Sanchez's project management skills will facilitate seamless event execution. Additionally, the team will work with a local videographer to document the event in a shareable, digital format.

This inaugural event aims not just to be a momentary celebration but a catalyst for lasting community engagement and dialogue. By creating a digital footprint, the project also seeks to extend its reach, inspiring further initiatives that drive towards racial and social justice. The Culinary Bridges project is poised to weave a narrative of resilience, solidarity, and hope, contributing significantly to the ongoing dialogue on racial and social justice and advancing the vision of equitable and thriving urban communities in a critical political climate.

Please provide a summary of the overall program being proposed (Concept of Proposed Program).

The Just Cities Institute aims to celebrate the Bay Area's and the City of Alameda's culinary history with "Culinary Bridges" in the Summer of 2024, uniting the community through the power of food and storytelling. The event will bring together local chefs representing Black, Latinx, Southeast Asian, and Indigenous cultures, alongside Bay Area photographers and videographers, to weave a tapestry of multiracial solidarity. Chefs will prepare a dish of cultural significance and engage in storytelling about their culture's impact in the Bay Area, particularly in social justice movements. While the program is open to the public, we will target community organizations, and the caregivers of our society, to attend and feel cared for and nourished. Attendees (our coalition partners and broader community members) will delve into the rich narratives behind each dish, sparking conversations that bridge communities. The feast and its stories will be captured, creating digital storytelling to fuel ongoing engagement and inspire collective action and unity.

Please provide a description of each of the components of the overall program, major component activities, timelines and the roles of key personnel, as well as involvement of any other partner organizations (Program Description and Work Plan).

Components/Activities

Just Cities Institute will host an event where chefs from four different cultures, Black, Latinx, Asian, and Indigenous will prepare food of cultural significance and engage in storytelling with attendees about the dish and their respective community's impact on Alameda County and the Bay Area. The event will be held in a community kitchen in Alameda. Attendees will enjoy four different dishes and learn about different cultures' impact on the history of social movements in the Bay Area. The community dinner will be followed by a facilitated discussion about the power of food to unite cultures and movements.

The event will be documented by Bay Area videographers and shared widely to fuel ongoing engagement.

Outreach

The Institute will invite community partners, social justice advocates, direct services providers, and local leaders to the event to foster community among individuals who are often taking care of others. We will utilize our networks and promote the event on social media accounts. We will also encourage invitees to share with individuals they wish to foster community with. In addition to Just Cities Institute community partners, we plan to invite organizations from the social justice ecosystem in Alameda such as the Alameda Food Bank.

Personnel

Maurice Wilkins is the Project Director and leading the vision and execution of the project. He has spent the past ten years hosting food-related experiences across the country. Maurice will work with the local chefs to gather materials to present an impactful story at the event. The local chefs will be compensated through this grant.

Jose Corona is the Head of Programs and Strategy at the Institute. With his deep knowledge of the Bay Area social justice ecosystem, Jose will tap into his network to identify key attendees and invite partner organizations to provide nominations for attendees.

Gaby Sanchez is the Operations and Development Manager at the

Institute. She will oversee the logistics of the event.

Chefs invited and confirmed

- Chef Rashad Armstead, Food Network Chopped champion, will be asked to prepare a dish and present about the history of the Black community in the Bay Area, focusing on movement building and social justice.
- Needa Bee is a local community leader and activist in the Bay Area housing space. She will present a dish from her Filipino background and speak about the history of Asian American communities in the Bay Area.

The chef who will be invited to the event:

- Chef Crystal Wahpepah, a member of the Kickapoo nation, will be asked to share a dish and present on food sovereignty and its health and environmental benefits.
- Chef Ivan Tellez owns the popular Alameda restaurant Canasta Kitchen. He will be asked to share a dish from his Mexican heritage and will discuss the history of Latinx communities in Alameda and the Bay Area.

Timeline

We are currently in the planning process, which involves coordination and outreach with chefs community partners, venue, and guests. We anticipate to host the event at the end of June 2024.

Please provide a statement of the program's goals and indication of the steps to be taken to achieve those goals. Response should provide an indication of how progress toward goals would be evaluated or monitored (Goals).

"Culinary Bridges" ambitiously sets out to delve into and celebrate the rich, historical, and cultural depths of culinary traditions. It aims to bridge cultural divides through engaging dialogue and to highlight the unifying power of food. Here's how we plan to achieve our objectives and monitor our progress:

Program Goals:

Explore and Celebrate Culinary Traditions: Through a curated selection of dishes and the stories behind them, we aim to offer a deep dive into the historical and cultural significance of various culinary practices. Chefs and facilitators will lead this exploration, sharing their personal and cultural journeys with food.

Bridge Cultural Divides: By fostering dialogue among participants from different backgrounds, we intend to use food as a medium to connect individuals, encouraging them to share their own stories and listen to others.

Showcase Food's Unifying Power: Highlighting how food can unite people, from different backgrounds, is a central theme. We plan to demonstrate this through the communal aspects of meal preparation, dining, and storytelling.

Event Coordination and Management: Just Cities Institute staff will lend their networks, experience providing food experience, and project management expertise to execute this program.

Facilitation and Storytelling: Encouraging participants to share their own food-related stories, fostering a sense of community and shared history.

Create a Digital Archive: Develop an online platform to collect and share the recipes, stories, and videos from the events, making the content accessible to a wider audience.

Evaluation and Monitoring:

Community: We will measure the impact on connection through qualitative feedback collected from participants before and after the events. Surveys and open-ended interviews will help gauge any shifts in perceptions and feelings of connectedness.

Digital Archive Engagement: The success of the digital archive will be determined by tracking metrics such as page views, downloads, and user engagement. Feedback on the archive's usefulness and its role in fostering broader community engagement will also be collected and analyzed.

Please provide the proposed program budget. Submission can include a combination of narrative and table(s) that convey how fund dollars would be dedicated to the various components of the proposed program and its administration. Response should also indicate whether/how any other funding sources would be leveraged to implement the program (2 page maximum).

[City_of_Alameda_-_Culinary_Bridges.xlsx](#)

Please provide a schedule for your proposal. Submission should include the proposed date(s) that the cultural arts or arts programming will be held along with key milestones leading up to the specified date(s). The submission should also include a proposed program for the the cultural arts or arts programming (e.g. schedule of event(s)).

[JCI_City_of_Alameda_Schedule_Program.pdf](#)

Please provide a description of the proposer's organization, including its history, track record for providing art and cultural programming, and ability to carry out the work proposed (Organizational Capacity).

Just Cities Institute's work is deeply rooted in the principles of intersectionality, addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by BIPOC communities, previously incarcerated individuals, the homeless, and those near or below the poverty line. Our initiatives, like the Fair Chance Housing policies, reflect a commitment to understanding and addressing the overlapping and interdependent systems of discrimination and systemic racism. The Institute has a strong track record of bringing coalitions and key stakeholders together. In Alameda County, we are leading coalitions that prioritize the needs and voices of community members most impacted by policy issues such as people of color, formerly incarcerated individuals, immigrants, and others. The organization is uniquely positioned to host this program due to its deep relationships with organizations advancing racial justice in Alameda County. Just Cities Institute has a track record of providing art programming, as evidenced by its partnership with Hip Hop for Change and our support in the creation of the Black Cultural Zone: Hip Hop for Change and the Just Cities Institute worked together to create a music video to integrate art and policy education and teach impacted residents about their rights under the Fair Chance Housing ordinances in Berkeley and Oakland. JCI was one of the initial organizers for the the Black Cultural Zone, an organization has been a hub for preserving and innovating Black arts and culture.

Please upload videos, images or other materials relevant to the proposer's organization, including its history, track record for providing art and cultural programming, and ability to carry out the work proposed.

[WHERE_DO_I_GO___Just_Cities_HipHopForChange.mp4](#)

Please also provide an organizational chart showing personnel (2 page maximum).

[JCI_Org_Chart_2024.pdf](#)

By checking this box, checked
you are attesting to
the following: I, as
the primary contact
of the organization or
public entity,
solemnly swear that I
have reviewed and
completed this
application in its
entirety and fully
understand its
contents. The
answers given to
each and every
question, any
information or any
and all
documentation
furnished for
processing the grant
application, or
otherwise contained
herein are full and
true to the best of my
knowledge and belief
under the penalty of
perjury.

Signature of primary contact of organization or public entity Maurice Wilkins

Title of signatory (e.g. Executive Director) Executive Director

Culinary Bridges 2024 Schedule

Timeline	Key Activities and Milestones
March - April 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Engage Chefs we intend to invite ● Socialize community building through food programs with grocery stores, restaurants, and other organizations interested in food and healing
May 1 - 15, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Confirm Chefs participating and finalize program ● Continue to reach out to potential partners for in-kind and financial support ● Engage with Just Cities Institute Board for individual donation strategies ● Reserve venue in Alameda ● Hire videographer ● Create preliminary guest list
May 16 - 31, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Produce promotional material ● Create and open registration form, which will include pre-survey ● Confirm dishes and stories that Chefs will share ● Finalize guest list and send out invitations
June 1 - 15, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Post promotional materials in social media and send out to guests to share with their circles ● Confirm schedule with Chefs, confirm tech needed for story telling ● Secure materials (plates, utensils, napkins, cups) ● Create feedback survey for post
June 21, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tour venue with chefs, videographer, and Just Cities personnel a week before event
June 29, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Host event ● Send out feedback survey to attendees after the event
August 7, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Follow up with the videographer about photos to post on social media
August 15, 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Post completed video on Just Cities website

JUNE 29TH, 2024

JUST CITIES INSTITUTE CULINARY BRIDGES

Featuring Needa Bee, Chef Crystal Wahpepah,
Chef Rashad Armstead, & Chef Ivan Tellez



Exhibit



Program

LEYDECKEER PARK
3221 MECARTNEY ROAD,
ALAMEDA 94502

Sign in	5:00 PM - 5:45 PM
Welcome Maurice Wilkins	5:45 PM - 6:00 PM
Community Dinner	6:00 PM - 7:15 PM
Facilitated Discussion	7:15 PM - 7:55 PM
Close out	7:55 PM - 8:00 PM

Please register at [LINK](#)



Culinary Bridges
Just Cities Institute: Budget and Justification

Item	Amount	City of Alameda Grant	OUTSIDE FUNDING	
			San Francisco Foundation	Individual Donations
Salaries, Personnel	\$5,844.60	\$5,844.60		
Chef/Food Budget	\$3,400.00	\$3,155.40		
Venue	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00	
Videographer	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00		\$1,000.00
Materials	\$500.00			\$500.00
Subtotal	\$11,744.60			
Indirect	\$1,174.46			\$419.06
TOTAL	\$12,919.06	\$10,000.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,919.06

Salaries	FT monthly	% effort	Months	Total
Maurice Wilkins, Executive Director	Pro bono	15.00%	3	0
Jose Corona, Head of Programs and Strategy	Pro bono	15.00%	3	0
Operations and Personnel Total	\$7,792.81	25.00%	3	\$5,844.60
				\$5,844.60

Justification: Maurice and Jose will provide their time pro bono. This grant will fund part of Gaby's salary for 3 months

Chef/ Food Budget		
Estimated attendees:	50	
Price per plate	\$12	
	Additional Chef	
	Per Attendee	Fee
Chef Rashad	\$600.00	\$250.00
Chef Crystal Wahpepah	\$600.00	\$250.00
Chef Needa Bee	\$600.00	\$250.00
Chef Ivan Tellez	\$600.00	\$250.00
Subtotal	\$2,400.00	\$1,000.00
Total	\$3,400.00	

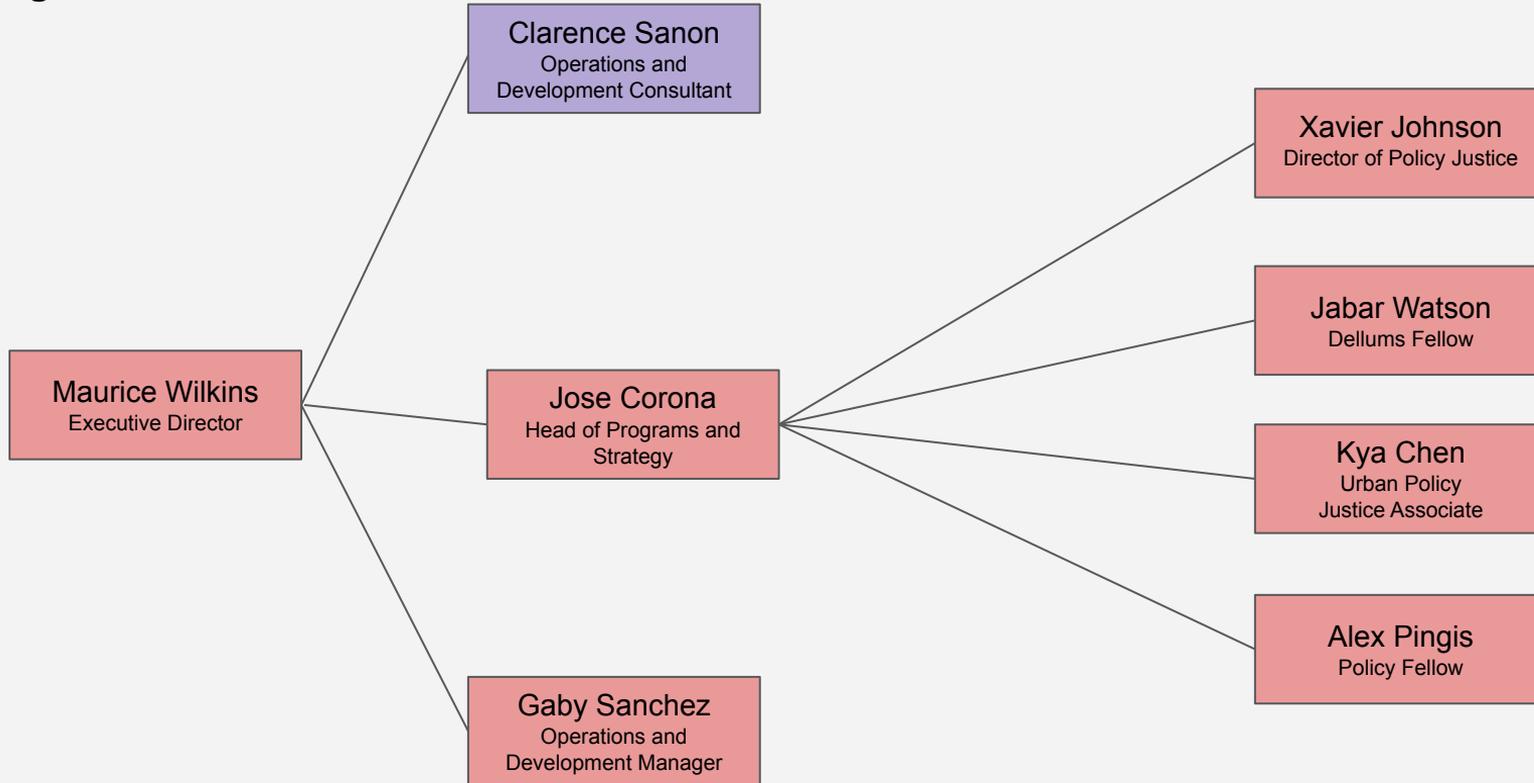
Justification: We anticipate 50 people will attend the event. Chefs will charge \$12 per plate and will be given an additional \$250 for their participation.

Other Expenses	
Item	Amount
Venue	\$1,000.00
Videographer	\$1,000.00
Materials	\$500.00

Justification: We anticipate that the venue will cost \$1,000. We will hire a Bay Area videographer to capture the event, edit media and upload photos and videos of the event. We anticipate to use \$500 for materials such as printing and equipment to serve the food.

Just Cities Institute Org Chart

Exhibit



Legend
FT and PT Staff - red
Consultants - purple