

HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

Daniel Lurie
Mayor

Mawuli Tugbenyoh
Executive Director



MEMORANDUM

To: Chair Leah Pimentel, Vice Chair Sarah Montoya, and Members, Human Rights Commission

From: Mawuli Tugbenyoh, Executive Director, Agency for Human Rights

Re: San Francisco Pride Celebration and Parade — Program and Sole-Source Justification

Date: October 8, 2026

Background

The Agency for Human Rights (AHR), operating department of the San Francisco Human Rights Commission, asks the Commission to approve a sole-source grant to San Francisco Pride a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization to plan, produce, operate the San Francisco Pride Celebration and Parade in June 2027.

The San Francisco Pride Celebration and Parade is a free public event that advances LGBTQI+ culture, visibility, human rights, and civic participation. It has been produced in San Francisco for more than five decades, with longstanding City support through departments including Grants for the Arts, Public Works, and Recreation and Parks. Responsibility for administering this grant is moving to AHR.

Chapter 21G of the San Francisco Administrative Code governs how City agencies award grants. Administrative Code Section 21G.8 permits a granting agency to award a grant without a competitive process where the commission with jurisdiction or the Board of Supervisors approves the agency's recommendation. Under Section 21G.9 and the Purchaser's rules, a sole source grant is permitted where a competitive process is infeasible or impracticable, or where the public purpose may reasonably be accomplished by one particular grantee.

Sole Source Justification

The grant's public purpose is to support a free, accessible San Francisco Pride Celebration and Parade in June 2027 at its established scale. AHR finds that San Francisco Pride is uniquely positioned to fulfill this purpose based on its:

- **Production experience and readiness.** More than five decades producing the celebration and parade, with planning for June 2027 already underway.
- **Permitting and City relationships.** An established permitting record and working relationships with the City departments responsible for event approvals and coordination.
- **Community networks.** Longstanding relationships with parade contingents, community organizations, artists, performers, vendors, and volunteers.

- **Financial and operational capacity.** The capacity to manage event cash flow, reimbursement funding, and production, while remaining accountable for all grant-funded work, including that of partners, subcontractors, and vendors.

Grants for the Arts, the City department that has administered this grant for many years, searched its applicant record for the last five years against AHR's scope of work and found no organization that applied with the same or similar scope and scale.

Grants for the Arts identified a small number of organizations whose work intersects or connects with the scope but which, in its assessment, do not satisfy its full breadth. AHR considered each. None combines the permitting record for an event of this size, the contingent and community networks the parade is composed of, the fiscal capacity to carry an event of this cost, and production already underway for June 2027.

Impracticability

The Department does not believe a competitive process is practicable due to the production schedule associated with this large-scale event.

The June 2027 event is fixed by the occasion it commemorates, not by AHR. Permits, approvals, production contracts, and vendor and contingent commitments for a June event are secured many months ahead, and the June 2027 production cycle is already in progress. A competitive process begun now would conclude well into the event year, after the point at which a producer could still commit to the event it was being selected to deliver. If the City's support does not reach the producer until then, the public benefit the City is purchasing is diminished for that year, meaning a smaller event, reaching fewer people, with less participation by the community organizations and small businesses the grant is intended to support.

Conclusion and Recommendation

AHR recommends that the Commission find that the grant's public purpose may reasonably be accomplished by San Francisco Pride and that a competitive process is impracticable for the June 2027 event, and approve a sole-source grant on those grounds. This recommendation is supported by San Francisco Pride's demonstrated capacity and readiness and the documented five-year review of Grants for the Arts applicants.

AHR requests approval of the sole-source justification, approval of the award in an amount not to exceed \$850,000 for a one-year term, and authority to negotiate and execute a grant agreement. The agreement will be retroactive to July 1, 2026, to support the transition of grant administration from Grants for the Arts to AHR and cover production work already undertaken for the June 2027 event.

The scope of work, deliverables, performance metrics, budget allocations, payment terms, and reporting requirements are negotiated with the grantee after approval and recorded in Appendix B of the executed grant agreement.