City of Asheville Staff Report

City Council Meeting Date: *August 25, 2026*

Staff Resources: *Promise Boseman, Workforce Development Coordinator, and Rachel Taylor, Economic Development Division Manager, Housing and Economic Development Department*

Action Requested: *Adoption of a resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Buncombe County to receive funding for the City of Asheville Youth Leadership Academy (CAYLA).*

Background:

- The City of Asheville Youth Leadership Academy (CAYLA) is a program for high school students that focuses on career exploration, leadership development, and the acquisition of 21st-century job skills. CAYLA provides young people with work experience in Asheville, helping them develop their future careers.
- The CAYLA program also provides each graduating student with a $2,000 scholarship to support their continuing education at their higher learning institution of choice. These scholarships are disbursed by the Asheville City Schools Foundation (ACSF).
- Buncombe County has been a key partner in this work and has provided financial support for the CAYLA program since 2018.
- Buncombe County is again providing support through the CAYLA program, with a funding agreement totaling $65,000 for CAYLA activities.
- The authorization of this annual agreement with Buncombe County will allow the program to continue receiving this financial support.

Vendor Outreach:

- N/A

Council Vision 2036 Focus Area(s):

- Thriving Local Economy

Council Priority Recovery Area(s):

- N/A

Committee(s):

- N/A

Fiscal Impact:

- This agreement will result in the City receiving $65,000 to administer the CAYLA program. This funding is already included in the FY 2026-27 Operating Budget.

Suggested Motion:

- Motion to authorize the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Buncombe County to accept $65,000 of funding for the City of Asheville Youth Leadership Academy (CAYLA).

Attachment(s):

- Resolution

City of Asheville Resolution Number 26-___

Resolution authorizing the City Manager to enter into an agreement with Buncombe County to accept funding for the City of Asheville Youth Leadership Academy

Whereas, pursuant to N.C.G.S.§ 160A-17.1, the governing body of any city or county is hereby authorized to make contracts for and to accept grants-in-aid and loans from the federal and State governments and their agencies for constructing, expanding, maintaining, and operating any project or facility, or performing any function, which such city or county may be authorized by general law or local act to provide or perform; and

Whereas, the City of Asheville Youth Leadership Academy (CAYLA) is a youth development program supported and maintained by the City of Asheville; and

Whereas, the mission of CAYLA is to increase the City's and community's professional workforce by supporting career and educational development for youth from low-wealth households and first-generation college applicants to the various public service careers available in the Asheville area; and

Whereas, the City first approved the CAYLA program on May 8, 2007, and agreed to support the creation of a scholarship program that will provide CAYLA graduates with a $2,000 scholarship award; and

Whereas, the City most recently authorized the City Manager on August 23, 2022, to execute a Memorandum of Agreement with the Asheville City Schools Foundation to administer the annual disbursement of CAYLA scholarships to colleges at which CAYLA graduates are enrolled following the successful completion of the CAYLA program for a period of 5 years; and

Whereas, Buncombe County has financially supported the CAYLA program since 2018 and has extended an offer to provide another year of financial support up to $65,000 for the purpose of administering the CAYLA program; and

Whereas, the authorization of this annual agreement with Buncombe County will allow for their continued financial support for the program;

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Asheville that: The City Manager is hereby authorized to execute an agreement with Buncombe County to accept financial support for the CAYLA program up to $65,000 for FY27 of the program.

Read, approved and adopted this 25th day of August, 2026.

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Esther E. Manheimer, Mayor

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Brad Branham, City Attorney

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Magdalen Burleson, City Clerk