

December 09, 2025

Board of Supervisors  
Kern County Administrative Center  
1115 Truxtun Avenue  
Bakersfield, CA 93301

**PROPOSED MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN BLUE ZONES PROJECT –  
BAKERSFIELD AND THE LIBRARY TO INTRODUCE HANDS-ON FOOD LITERACY  
EDUCATION THROUGH THE CHARLIE CART PROGRAM  
TO RUN THROUGH MARCH 31, 2028  
(Fiscal Impact: None)**

The Kern County Library respectfully requests your Board's approval of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Blue Zones, LLC, to launch the Bakersfield Charlie Cart Program in Bakersfield Libraries through March 31, 2028.

Blues Zones Project – Bakersfield will equip the Library with a Charlie Cart, a fully functional mobile kitchen classroom featuring a compact convection oven, induction cooktop, rinse station, and cookware. This innovative resource will allow the Library to integrate nutrition education into branch programming, providing children with hands-on experiences to prepare healthy meals, discover wholesome ingredients, and build lifelong confidence and food literacy skills.

This initiative is far more than a cooking class; it addresses a critical community need. Despite Kern County's status as one of the most agriculturally rich regions in the nation, many families struggle with food insecurity. Recent data shows that 13% of adults and 18% of children in our County are food insecure. Research indicates that these households often rely on inexpensive, calorie-dense foods, contributing to elevated rates of obesity and diet-related chronic diseases locally.

Through ongoing library programming efforts, the Bakersfield Charlie Cart Program will deliver interactive nutrition education designed to address these local challenges. Our goal is to equip young people with practical life skills, deepen their understanding of healthy eating, and foster habits that support lifelong health and well-being.

This partnership with Blue Zones Project – Bakersfield offers a transformative opportunity for the Library to serve as a central hub for nutrition education, community wellness, and youth development. Approval of this MOU will enable the Library to turn this vision into a reality and expand the Department's role in fostering healthier, more resilient communities.

The Office of County Counsel has reviewed and approved this request as to form. The County Administrative Office has reviewed and concurs with this request.

Therefore, IT IS RECOMMENDED that your Board approve the MOU between Blue Zones, LLC and Kern County Library and authorize Director of Libraries to sign the Memorandum of Understanding and related documents.

Sincerely,

Andie Sullivan,  
Director of Libraries

cc: CAO  
County Counsel  
AS



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October 7, 2025

Kern County Library  
701 Truxtun Ave.  
Bakersfield, CA 93301  
Attn: Andie Sullivan

Re: Bakersfield Charlie Cart Letter Agreement

Dear Mrs. Sullivan:

This Bakersfield Charlie Cart Letter Agreement (the “Letter Agreement” is by and between Blue Zones, LLC (“Blue Zones”) and Kern County Library (“Library”), and sets forth the terms of the parties’ agreement whereby Blue Zones will provide the Donation (defined below) for the Library to launch and manage ongoing youth food programming in Bakersfield, California. For good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, the parties agree as follows:

- A. Term. This Letter Agreement shall commence on the date of last signature and shall continue in full force and effect until March 31, 2028, unless sooner terminated in accordance with the terms of this Letter Agreement (the “Term”).
- B. Purpose. The parties would like to support and offer a food skills program for youth in Bakersfield, California which will provide school aged children the tools, equipment and instruction necessary to develop food skills (the “Bakersfield Charlie Cart Program”). The Bakersfield Charlie Cart Program will be presented through regular events at the Beale Memorial Library, located at 701 Truxtun Avenue in Bakersfield, California. The Bakersfield Charlie Cart Program will initially launch as part of a Pilot Program (defined below) and subsequently continue under the sole management and direction of the Library in accordance with the terms and conditions set forth herein.
- C. Blue Zones’ Obligations.
  1. Equipment. During the SOW Term, Blue Zones shall provide to Library new equipment (the “Charlie Cart”) as expressly set forth on Attachment A. Blue Zones shall have the right to make any improvements to the exterior of the Charlie Cart prior to or after providing the Charlie Cart to Library, including, but not limited to, painting and adding Blue Zones branding/elements. Such improvements shall be at Blue Zones sole cost and expense.



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2. Pilot Program. Blue Zones shall provide the initial programming and services for the launch and an initial six (6) week offering of events for the Bakersfield Charlie Cart Program (the “Pilot Program”). Except as otherwise set forth herein for the Charlie Cart equipment itself, Blue Zones shall be responsible for all costs related to the Pilot Program (i.e., staffing, food costs, materials, etc.).
3. Bakersfield Charlie Cart Program Promotion. During the Term, Blue Zones may provide the following support to Library for the Bakersfield Charlie Cart Program:
  - o Collaboration with Library to develop and deploy strategies for Blue Zones to support and promote the Bakersfield Charlie Cart Program to increase youth participation and improve community involvement;
  - o Technical assistance support;
  - o Blue Zones volunteer time for Bakersfield Charlie Cart Program activities and events;
  - o Recommendations for Bakersfield Charlie Cart Program improvements;
  - o Develop and distribute Blue Zones Project resources for use during Bakersfield Charlie Cart Program events; and
  - o Promotion of the Bakersfield Charlie Cart Program through Blue Zones marketing channels, such as social media, canvassing, etc.

### D. Library’s Obligations.

1. Bakersfield Charlie Cart Program Management. Beginning after the completion of the Pilot Program and for the remainder of the Term, Library shall be solely responsible for the scheduling, costs, and management of the Bakersfield Charlie Cart Program. Library shall offer no fewer than one (i) multi-event program per year that utilizes the Charlie Cart and promotes the Bakersfield Charlie Cart Program.
2. Permissible Use. During the Term, the Library shall use the Charlie Cart exclusively for the purpose of the Bakersfield Charlie Cart Program.
3. Data Reporting. During the Term, and as frequently as required by Blue Zones in its sole discretion, Library will provide a reporting that tracks the following data points: (i) surveys from Bakersfield Charlie Cart Program participants/families regarding consumption of healthy food items; (ii) attendance figures for Bakersfield Charlie Cart Program events; (iii) survey data related to the increase in the number of new foods or healthy recipes that have been exposed to Bakersfield Charlie Cart Program participants; and (iv) any other data as collected by Library or as reasonably requested by Blue Zones regarding the Bakersfield Charlie Cart Program.
4. Receipt of the Charlie Cart. As may be necessary, and at a date and time mutually agreed upon by the parties, the Library will at its sole cost, expense and risk, accept delivery of the Charlie Cart identified in Attachment A at Beale Memorial Library, located at 701 Truxtun Avenue in Bakersfield, California.



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Effective upon Library's receipt of the Charlie Cart, Blue Zones hereby transfers, assigns and conveys to Library all of its right, title and interest in and to the Charlie Cart.

5. Training, Storage and Maintenance. Library shall be responsible for arranging and engaging in any necessary training as provided by The Charlie Cart Project in order to own and operate the Charlie Cart. Library shall provide safe and secure storage for the Charlie Cart at all times during the term of this Letter Agreement, and shall promptly perform any maintenance to the Charlie Cart deemed necessary for Library to perform its obligations under this Letter Agreement, including the ongoing offering of Bakersfield Charlie Cart Program events.
- E. Representations & Warranties. Library and Blue Zones each represents and warrants that: (i) during the Term of this Letter Agreement, and in connection with its performance of its obligations hereunder, it will act in compliance with all applicable laws, rules and regulations ("Applicable Law"), including but not limited to any applicable licensing requirements; (ii) each party has full power and authority to enter into this Letter Agreement.
- F. Indemnification; Disclaimers; Waivers; Limitation of Liability.
  1. Library and Blue Zones shall each indemnify, defend and hold harmless the other party and its agents, employees, officers, agents, licensees and assigns, from and against any and all claims or damages resulting from or arising out of: (i) a breach of this Letter Agreement; (ii) the negligence, reckless or willful misconduct of the party or its employees and agents in connection with this Letter Agreement; or (iii) a violation of Applicable Law by the party.
  2. Neither party shall be liable to the other for special, consequential, incidental, indirect, punitive or exemplary damages, however caused, whether for breach of warranty, contract, tort, strict liability, loss of data, loss of use, or otherwise, even if a party has been advised of such possibility.
  3. **BLUE ZONES PROVIDES THE CHARLIE CART ON AN "AS IS" BASIS WITHOUT WARRANTIES OF ANY KIND. BLUE ZONES EXPRESSLY DISCLAIMS ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, EXPRESS, IMPLIED OR STATUTORY, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE IMPLIED WARRANTIES OF MERCHANTABILITY, NON-INFRINGEMENT AND FITNESS FOR A PARTICULAR PURPOSE AND ANY IMPLIED WARRANTIES ARISING OUT OF COURSE OF PERFORMANCE OR COURSE OF DEALING.**
- G. Insurance. As the sole and exclusive owner of the Charlie Chart following Library's receipt of the Charlie Cart, Library agrees it shall carry all necessary insurance to own and operate the Charlie Cart, including for the Charlie Cart's use in connection with the Bakersfield Charlie Cart Program. Additionally, Library shall carry the proper insurance to offer and operate the Bakersfield Charlie Cart Program, including general liability insurance coverage which shall name Blue Zones, LLC as an additional insured.



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H. Termination. This Letter Agreement may be terminated immediately by Blue Zones, with or without cause, upon notice the Library. The Agreement may be terminated by Library upon 30 days' advanced written notice.

I. Miscellaneous Terms.

1. As between Library and Blue Zones, Blue Zones shall own all right, title and interest in and to the Blue Zones IP (as defined herein), including, without limitation, all associated intellectual property rights throughout the world. "Blue Zones IP" means all intellectual property created or owned by Blue Zones, including all works of authorship, presentations, programs, software, code, source code, system design, processes, tools, reports, manuals, supporting materials, drawings, diagrams, flowcharts, templates, documents, materials, technology, trademarks, trade secrets, instruction manuals, course descriptions, logos, trademarks, service marks, artwork, devices, website(s), and concepts, and any modifications, updates, enhancements and derivative works of any of the foregoing, whether developed prior to the date of the Presentation. All use of the Blue Zones IP by Library shall be only upon prior written approval of Blue Zones. In the event Library wishes to utilize materials, content, and programming from the Pilot Program, such use shall be subject to Blue Zones express written approval and/or Library's agreement to the terms of a separate license.
2. Any public announcement regarding the parties' relationship and the nature of this Letter Agreement shall be coordinated between the parties and shall be in such form agreed upon by the parties.
3. This Letter Agreement shall be a legally binding and enforceable agreement on each of the parties hereto upon such parties' execution of this Letter Agreement. The parties agree to continue to take all necessary action and to each use reasonable efforts to take all other actions required of a party to effectuate the transactions contemplated by this Letter Agreement.
4. This Letter Agreement shall be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of California without regard to principles of conflicts of laws.
5. This Letter Agreement may be executed in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed to be an original, but all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument.



BLUE ZONES™

Thank you for your dedication to Blue Zones Project Bakersfield and we look forward to working with you on the Bakersfield Charlie Cart Program.

Sincerely,

BLUE ZONES, LLC

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Amelia Clabots, CFO and CAO

**AGREED AND ACCEPTED:**

KERN COUNTY LIBRARY

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Title: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_



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**ATTACHMENT A**

**Charlie Cart & Signage**

1. The Charlie Cart Project Mobile Kitchen Classroom Charlie Cart
  - a. Dimensions: Height: 35 1/2" Width: 26 1/2" Length: 61 5/8"(handle to handle) Weight: 450 lbs (fully loaded)
2. Installation of Blue Zones branded signage on the exterior of the Charlie Cart and/or exterior painting of the Charlie Cart

# THE CHARLIE CART PROJECT



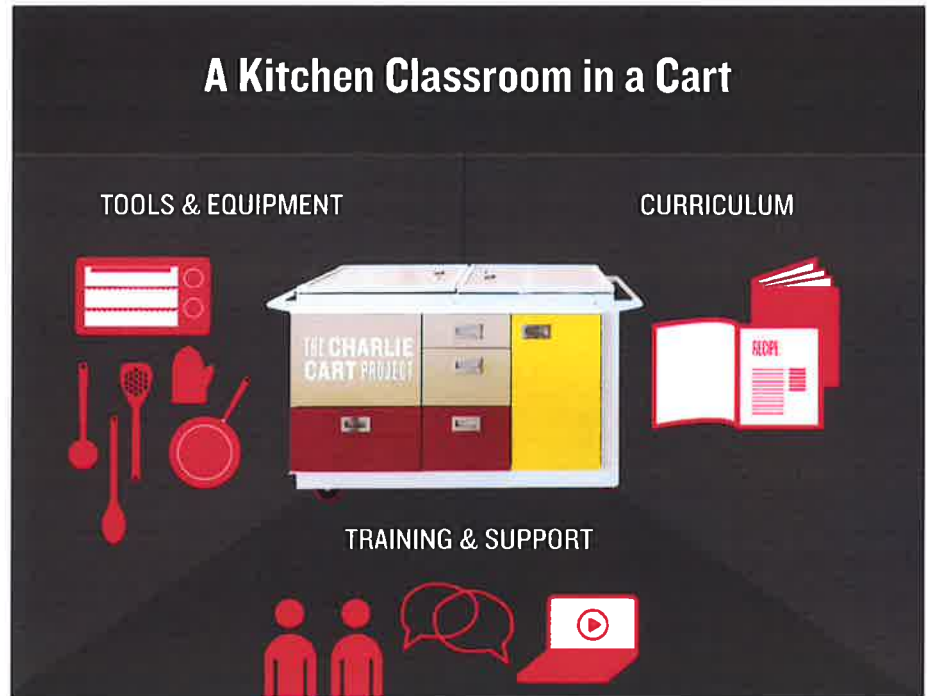
# THE CHARLIE CART PROJECT

## GROWING HANDS-ON FOOD EDUCATION

The Charlie Cart Project is a hands-on nutrition education program on wheels. The program centers around the Charlie Cart — a compact mobile kitchen complete with appliances and cooking equipment, a fully integrated K-5 curriculum, and training. With this turnkey program, The Charlie Cart Project empowers educators to lead cooking and nutrition lessons in any setting.

### ABOUT US

Our Board of Advisors includes food system advocates Alice Waters, Michael Pollan, Olivier DeSchutter and Harold McGee. The Charlie Cart Project is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization



## A READY TOOL FOR ANY COMMUNITY HUB



The Wyoming Department of Education has implemented Charlie Cart programs across multiple school sites, teaching basic life skills in rural communities



San Francisco Public Library demonstrates simple, healthy dishes at the Civic Center Farmer's Market



The Low Country Food Bank in Charleston, South Carolina teaches their clients, including teen moms, seniors and school children, how to use fresh produce

CHARLIE CART PROJECT IS A NATIONAL PROGRAM, ACTIVE IN OVER 20 STATES ACROSS THE COUNTRY



K-12 schools



Farmers' markets



Libraries



Food banks



Universities & community colleges



Hospitals

# THE CHARLIE CART PROJECT

## WHAT'S INCLUDED

- Full K-5 Curriculum with lessons and recipes, aligned to math, science and English language arts
- Equipment, including:
  - Compact convection oven (1800W/15AMP)
  - Induction cooktop (1800W/15 AMP)
  - Rinse station
  - Cookware
- Rinse station with greywater recovery
- Cookware and smallwares designed to get up to 30 kids cooking in the classroom



## CONTACT INFO

info@charliecart.org

## CART SPECS

### DIMENSIONS

Height: 35 1/2"

Width: 26 1/2"

Length: 61 5/8" (handle to handle)

Weight: 450 lbs (fully loaded)

### ELECTRICAL

120 Volt, 15amps

### USE

The Charlie Cart is a mobile kitchen classroom designed primarily for schools, and is intended to be transported around a school or a single site.

## SPONSORED BY



Breville



FAGOR



Cuisinart



Progressive

richlite

