

APPROVED
APR 03 2019

**BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS**

BOARD REPORT

NO. 19-067

DATE April 3, 2019

C.D. 13

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: LEMON GROVE RECREATION CENTER – INSTALLATION OF A MURAL PROJECT – CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE PROVISIONS OF THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA) PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 1(1) [EXTERIOR ALTERATION OF AN EXISTING PUBLIC FACILITY WITH NEGLIGIBLE OR NO EXPANSION OF USE] OF CITY CEQA GUIDELINES AND ARTICLE 19, SECTION 15301(a) OF CALIFORNIA CEQA GUIDELINES;

AP Diaz	_____	V. Israel	_____
*R. Barajas		S. Piña-Cortez	_____
H. Fujita	_____	N. Williams	_____



General Manager

Approved X Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____
With Amendment

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve the installation of a mural project at Lemon Grove Recreation Center for a length of time not-to-exceed five (5) years (Project);
2. Authorize the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) staff to issue the appropriate Right-of-Entry (ROE) permit, subject to the provision of standard insurance requirements naming the City of Los Angeles as an additional insured to be maintained in effect throughout the mural approval period;
3. Find that the Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to **Article III**, Section 1, Class 1 (1) of the CEQA Guidelines, and direct RAP staff to file a Notice of Exemption (NOE);
4. Authorize the RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to prepare a check to the Los Angeles County Clerk in the amount of Seventy-Five Dollars (\$75.00) for the purpose of filing an NOE; and,
5. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee to make technical corrections as necessary to carry out the intent of this Report.

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SUMMARY

Lemon Grove Recreation Center is located within the Hollywood community at 4959 Lemon Grove Avenue. This facility features an auditorium, barbecue pits, a lighted baseball diamond, batting cages, basketball courts, children's play area, outdoor exercise equipment and picnic tables. Programs at this facility include baseball, basketball, boxing, softball, aerobics, dance, preschool and after school club.

RAP has been approached by Arts Bridging the Gap (ABG), represented by Georgia Van Cuylenburg, with a proposal to paint a mural titled "Respect" on the south (street) facing wall that is adjacent to the parking lot and a part of the trash enclosure area.

ABG is a non-profit organization whose mission is to craft art experiences that empower children and bridge the achievement gap. This proposed Project is part of the Los Angeles Street Art Initiative (LASAI), a city-wide project that brings underserved youth together with Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) officers to ideate, design and create public art pieces together. This particular group of children are from the Hollywood Police Activities League and the LAPD officers are from the Hollywood Division.

The project participants, officers and children, took part in several design and empathy classes in which they sketched out various ideas for the proposed mural. Common themes to emerge included showing the landscapes of Los Angeles and Hollywood as well as sports and nature scenes. These ideas were compiled into the proposed mural which prominently features the word "Respect". The style of the lettering and color choices are intended to be evocative of stained glass. (Exhibit A) The final design was presented to the children and officers who participated in the project.

The artist for this project, Man One, has a long history of public art in Los Angeles. Growing up in Los Angeles, Man One developed his skills as a graffiti artist on the streets of LA. Since earning his Bachelor's Degree in Fine Arts at Loyola Marymount he has worked in and out of the country on his mission to both democratize art and educate others about the unique value of graffiti art.

Arts Bridging the Gap held planning meetings at the Lemon Grove Recreation Center auditorium on February 12, 2018 and October 2, 2018. These meetings were publicly noticed at the Recreation Center. Notices of the second public meeting were mailed to the Office of Councilmember Mitch O'Farrell, Council District 13, and to the Hollywood Studio District Neighborhood Council. Councilmember O'Farrell has provided a letter of support for this mural as proposed.

The applicant, ABG, is responsible for costs associated with the proposed mural, including installation, maintenance, and insurance. The applicant will power wash the wall and apply primer prior to the painting of the mural. The mural will be painted by the muralist, Man One, with assistance from participating children, officers, community volunteers and ABG support staff. Anti-graffiti coating and on-going maintenance has been arranged with Woods Maintenance

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Services, a company under contract to do regular graffiti removal work on behalf of the City of Los Angeles, Office of Community Beautification.

The Department of Recreation and Parks Facility Repair and Maintenance Commission Task Force (Task Force) reviewed this proposal at their regularly scheduled meeting on February 6, 2019. The Task Force granted conceptual approval of the proposed mural project and recommended that the proposal be forwarded to the full Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) for consideration. The artist, Man One, has signed the required Waiver of Rights as part of the mural application process and RAP reserves the right to remove the mural if it is not maintained to Department Standards.

On November 14, 2018 the applicant received both conceptual and final approval for the project from the Department of Cultural Affairs Board of Commissioners.

Council District 13 has submitted a letter of support for this project subject to the support of the Departments of Recreation and Parks and Cultural Affairs. (Exhibit B)

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed Project consists of exterior alterations of an existing public facility with negligible or no expansion of use. Therefore, staff recommends that the Board determines that the Project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1(1) of City CEQA Guidelines as well as to Article 19, Section 15301(a) of California CEQA Guidelines.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

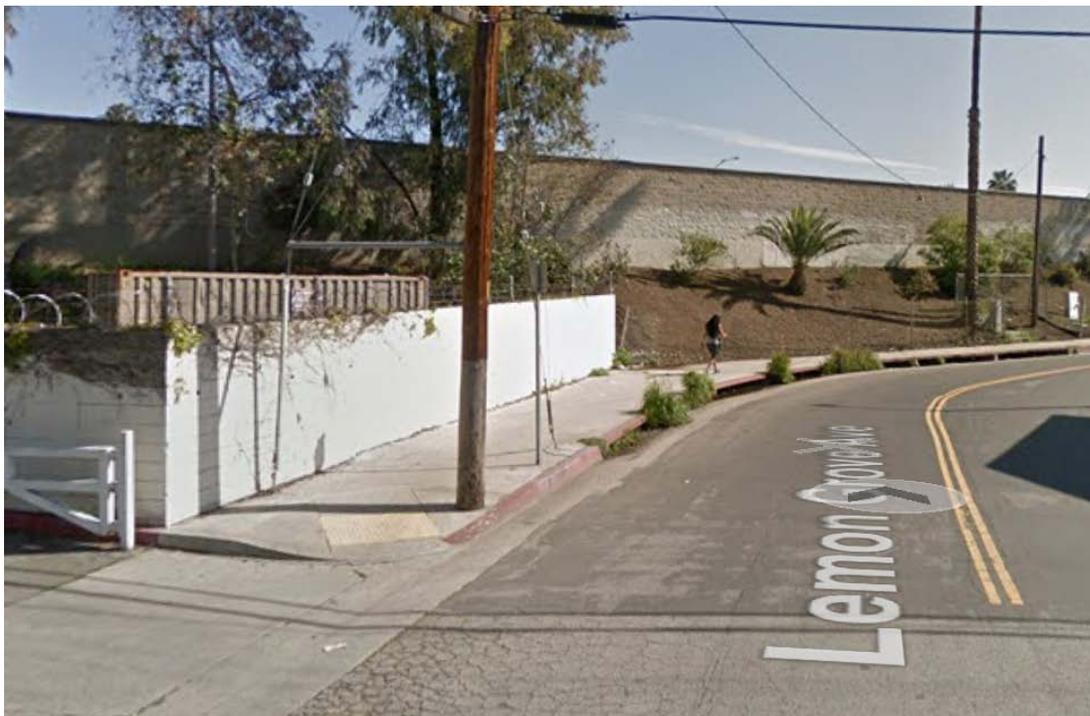
There will be a minimal fiscal impact to RAP as RAP is responsible for routine maintenance and eventual removal of the mural. Costs of the mural creation, installation, anti-graffiti coating, and any non-routine maintenance are the responsibility of the applicant.

This Report was prepared by Melinda Gejer, City Planning Associate, Planning, Maintenance and Construction Branch.

List of Attachment(s)

- 1) Exhibit A – Mural Renderings and Location
- 2) Exhibit B – Letter of Support from Council Office 13

“Respect”



Location of proposed mural – Existing condition



MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember
13th District

October 12th, 2018

Ms. Danielle Brazell
General Manager
Department of Cultural Affairs
201 N. Figueroa Street, 14th Floor
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Ms. Brazell,

Please be advised that my office is supportive of the mural at Lemon Grove Park, as proposed by Arts Bridging the Gap in conjunction with the Hollywood Police Activities League.

Our support comes with the condition that (1) the mural is supported by the Department of Recreation and Parks, which owns and operates the facility, and (2) all necessary protocols of the DCA Mural Guidelines are followed.

Please contact George Hakopiants of my staff if you have any questions. He can be reached at 213-207-3023 or george.hakopiants@lacity.org.

Best regards,

MITCH O'FARRELL
Councilmember, 13th District
City of Los Angeles