

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

APPROVED
SEP 06 2006

NO. 06-257

DATE September 6, 2006

BOARD OF RECREATION
and PARK COMMISSIONERS

C.D. 8

SUBJECT: MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN RECREATION AND PARKS
AND THE CHOUINARD FOUNDATION FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
AN ART PROGRAM

J. Combs _____
H. Fujita _____
S. Huntley _____
B. Jensen _____

J. Kolb _____
F. Mok _____
*K. Regan _____
M. Shull _____

Robert H. Jensen (G)

General Manager

Approved as amended

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve a three year Memorandum of Agreement (MOA), substantially in the form on file in the Board Office, and subject to the approval of the Mayor and City Attorney as to form, between the Department of Recreation and Parks (Department) and the Chouinard Foundation (Chouinard) for the implementation of an art program at the Exposition Park Intergenerational Community Center (EPICC) and at designated CLASS Parks sites;
2. Direct the Board Secretary to transmit forthwith the proposed MOA to the Mayor in accordance with Executive Directive No. 3 and concurrently to the City Attorney for review as to form; and,
3. Authorize the General Manger to expeditiously execute the MOA, upon receipt of the necessary approvals.

SUMMARY:

The Chouinard School of Art was founded near downtown Los Angeles in 1921 by Nelbert Murphy Chouinard who sought to implement a philosophy of teaching the fundamentals of art while allowing for full creative freedom. The implementation of this philosophy provided the basis for the Chouinard School of Art to become one of the premier art education institutes in the world. Many of the most influential artists of the Twentieth Century attended the Chouinard School of Art, including all of Disney's original animators.

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who previously authored

The Chouinard Foundation (Chouinard) was founded in 1999 by artist Dave Tourje who joined with artist and Chouinard alumnus Robert Perine ~~to create~~ a book regarding Chouinard's earlier years. Together they held discussions and produced events and later formed an advisory board of over 50 Chouinard alumni, many of whom were world renowned artists. The impetus of these activities was to ignite interest in order to re-implement the art education philosophy of Nelbert Chouinard in a contemporary context. One of the primary interests was to learn how to reach inner-city children and teens in order to see them benefit from Chouinard's unique curriculum and legacy of effectiveness. It was this concern that brought Chouinard and EPICC staff together.

Based on a successful summer pilot program conducted by Chouinard at EPICC, staff is now recommending that the art program, as a whole, continue at EPICC and be expanded throughout the Department's CLASS Parks sites. This type of program is beneficial and is in accordance with the goals of CLASS Parks. This is especially important because research has shown that involvement in art and receiving art instruction improves standardized test scores and provides an alternative to gangs and other negative activities.

The proposed partnership between the Department and Chouinard will involve Chouinard providing arts and crafts programs at EPICC and other designated Department sites. They will utilize the expertise of renowned Chouinard instructors and artists and will be a free service to the public. Chouinard, a fully vested 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation, along with Department staff, will seek grant funding to pay for this program with the Department contributing space, art-supplies from existing programs, and supplemental staff. The use of the space and art supplies is an in-kind contribution by the Department to the art program. Specifically at EPICC, Chouinard will deliver a total of 11 classes per week over 40 weeks, with a total of 22 hours per week. Classes will be offered in 10-week sessions over four quarters per year. Visiting professional artists will enhance the quality of art instruction provided, and each course shall receive one visiting artist per 10-week session. These artists will help teach art techniques, provide real art experiences, and help program participants develop necessary art skills.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The proposed agreement between the Department and Chouinard is contingent upon receiving grant funds or other funding sources. If the agreement is approved, upon receipt of funding and program commencement, the Department will begin development of Chouinard directed arts programs at EPICC and designated CLASS Parks sites. The assessed value of this in-kind contribution has yet to be completed. This program represents an enhancement to the existing arts program without additional General Fund expenditure.

This report prepared by Olujimi A. Hawes, Management Analyst II, Pacific Region.