

APPROVED
JUN 27 2013

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 13-170

DATE June 27, 2013

**BOARD OF RECREATION
& PARK COMMISSIONERS**

C.D. 1

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: MACARTHUR (GENERAL DOUGLAS) PARK – PROPOSED MONUMENT PROJECT – FINAL APPROVAL OF OSCAR A. ROMERO MONUMENT PROJECT

R. Adams	_____	K. Regan	_____
H. Fujita	_____	*M. Shull	_____ <i>ms</i>
V. Israel	_____	N. Williams	_____

[Signature]
General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Modify the conditions for final approval of the Salvadoran-American Leadership and Educational Fund's (SALEF) proposed Óscar A. Romero Monument Project (Project) in MacArthur Park to:
 - a. Funding being obtained by SALEF,
 - b. Plan approval by Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) Planning and Construction Branch,
 - c. Approval and Execution of a Maintenance Agreement by the Board,
 - d. Ten percent retention on project budget or such other security deemed sufficient by Planning and Construction Branch to guarantee project completion,
2. Grant final approval of Project, as described in the Summary of this Report, subject to the execution of a maintenance agreement per condition (c);
3. Authorize RAP staff to construct the proposed project as designed; and,
4. Authorize RAP staff to enter into an agreement with SALEF for the ongoing maintenance of the proposed project.

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SUMMARY:

On April 9, 2009, SALEF contacted RAP staff with a proposal to construct and maintain a monument at MacArthur Park, in dedication to the late Archbishop Óscar A. Romero. The project is in keeping with the Los Angeles – San Salvador Sister City relationship. In March, 2005, the City of Los Angeles established March 24th as “The Day of Remembrance of Archbishop Óscar A. Romero.”

SALEF wishes to build the monument plaza at the corner of 7th Street and Alvarado Street on MacArthur Park property located at 2230 West 6th Street. SALEF proposes to build the monument to add to the historical significance of MacArthur Park that has been established by other existing monuments. SALEF believes that the design of the monument plaza will beautify and instill a sense of pride and unity in the surrounding community which will help in reducing crime in an area that in the past has seen some troubled times. The intended message of this monument is that of peace, unity, and social justice, which was exemplified by Archbishop Óscar A. Romero’s life. The proposed monument would be a tribute to Monseñor Romero’s life as a civic leader who spoke out against violence, repression, social injustice and poverty.

Monseñor Romero is a world-recognized spiritual leader who championed civil rights throughout his life. Born in Ciudad Barrios in San Miguel, El Salvador on August 15, 1917, Monseñor Romero rose to become the Bishop of the Dioceses of Santiago de Maria in 1974. At the age of 59, Óscar A. Romero became the fourth Archbishop of San Salvador. It was during El Salvador’s Civil War that Archbishop Óscar A. Romero began his human rights movement to speak out against torture, social injustice and poverty which garnered him national and international recognition. In 1979, Archbishop Óscar A. Romero was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. Shortly after that, while celebrating Mass in El Salvador, Archbishop Óscar A. Romero was assassinated on March 24, 1980, by those opposing his teachings of love, courage, social justice, unity and peace.

On August 12, 2009, the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners granted a conceptual approval to the SALEF proposed monument project (Board Report No. 09-224) contingent upon the following factors:

- a. Funding being obtained by SALEF,
- b. Plan approval by Department of Recreation and Park’s (RAP) Planning, Construction and Maintenance Branch,
- c. Approval and Execution of a Lease Agreement by the Board, and
- d. Ten (10) percent retention on project budget or such other security deemed sufficient by Planning, Construction and Maintenance Branch to guarantee project completion.

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At the time that this conceptual approval was granted, it was understood that construction as well as maintenance would be the responsibility of SALEF. Since that time, the project scope has been modified with RAP staff undertaking the responsibility for the construction of the project. Therefore, no lease agreement is necessary, making condition (c) of the conditional approval obsolete. Instead, staff recommends that a more appropriate action would be to enter into a maintenance agreement with SALEF which will detail the long-term maintenance responsibilities of that entity.

On February 12, 2013, the City Council passed Motion 13-0189 which moved that \$190,637.00 be transferred/appropriated from AB1290 Fund No. 53P, Account No. 281201 (Council District 1 Redevelopment Projects – Services) as follows:

- \$52,665.00 to Engineering Special Services Fund No. 682, Department No. 50, entitled “Monsignor Oscar Romero Memorial Plaza,” and authorized the Controller to create said account for consultant services related to the preparation of construction documents with the understanding that any unspent funds be transferred to RAP for the construction of Monsignor Oscar Romero Memorial Plaza; and
- \$137,972.00 to RAP’s Fund No. 205, Department No. 88, Account No. 88JMA2, entitled “Monsignor Oscar Romero Memorial Plaza” for construction costs, permit fees, and the security maintenance deposit.

This motion additionally authorized RAP to accept an amount of up to \$13,000.00 from SALEF for Monsignor Oscar Romero Memorial Plaza construction/maintenance costs and deposit said funds into an account designated for the Monsignor Oscar Romero Memorial Plaza. Therefore, SALEF has fulfilled conditions (a) and (d) of the conceptual approval by securing the necessary funding for the project and providing security for the project deemed sufficient by the Planning, Construction and Maintenance Branch.

SALEF has fulfilled condition (b) of the conceptual approval by providing to the RAP Planning, Construction and Maintenance Branch, through the services of Mia Lehrer and Associates, the plans for the construction of the proposed plaza. The proposed plan features a bronze statue of Monseñor Romero, a spire with ascending doves, a curved stone bench, a stone crescent wall, stone paving, and bronze lettering. A commemorative plaque would also be installed following the standard design as approved by Board Report No. 07-115. A rendering of the plaza, the statue and the dove spire are attached hereto as Exhibit A.

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The artist selected for the creation of the bronze statue is Joaquin Antonio Serrano Lopez. Mr. Lopez resides and works in San Salvador, El Salvador. His specialties include sculpture, metallurgy and monuments. Mr. Lopez is a professor of plastic arts at Universidad Francisco Gavidia. The statue will be life size at six (6) feet tall. It will be constructed entirely of bronze and coated with an antique greenish patina called verdigris. The statue will be situated on a reinforced architectural concrete pedestal designed per seismic code.

The artist selected for the dove feature is Francisco A. Mejia. Mr. Mejia is a native Salvadoran who lives and works in Los Angeles, California. His specialties include painting and sculpture. Mr. Mejia received a Bachelor of Fine Arts from the University of Southern California and has been recognized by the City of Los Angeles for his work with the Coalition for Human Immigration Rights of LA. The dove feature represents people who perished during the civil war in El Salvador, the aspirations of peace and justice of Monseñor Romero and the Salvadoran people, and those Salvadorans who immigrated to the United States in search of a more prosperous future. The dove feature will be twenty-two feet (22') tall and mounted on a four-foot (4') platform base. The primary branches will be six feet (6') in length with minor branches of eight inches (8") – ten inches (10"). The doves are twelve inches (12") wide by eight inches (8") long and are fabricated from a metal that is one-eighth inch (1/8") thick. The post and branches will be painted burgundy and the doves will be enameled white. The artwork components of this project will require approval by the Cultural Heritage Commission. The artist will be required to sign an Artist Waiver of Rights.

If final approval of this project is granted, the next step in the process will be for staff to negotiate a maintenance agreement with SALEF. Staff recommends that approval of this project be contingent upon the successful negotiation of such a maintenance agreement. A subsequent Report to this Board would detail the terms of the maintenance agreement and seek the Board's approval of the maintenance agreement.

Staff has determined that placement of the proposed monument in MacArthur Park has been previously evaluated for potential environmental effects in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) in an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the MacArthur Park Improvements Project in April 2008. Staff has further determined that the monument as proposed would not result in any significant environmental impacts. The Final EIR (FEIR) was certified by the Board on June 18, 2008 and a Notice of Determination (NOD) was filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk on June 24, 2008. As the concept for the monument has not changed since the certification of the FEIR, no additional CEQA documentation for approval of the monument is required.

This project has strong support from the Councilmember for the First District. In addition, Assistant General Manager and Superintendent for the Metro Region have been consulted and concur with staff's recommendations.

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FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

There will be minimal fiscal impact to the Department's General Fund as staff negotiates the terms of the maintenance agreement with SALEF. Costs associated with the construction of the project have been provided by SALEF and Council District 1.

This report was prepared by Melinda Gejer, City Planning Associate, Planning, Construction and Maintenance Branch and reviewed by Michael A. Shull, Assistant General Manager, Planning, Construction and Maintenance Branch.



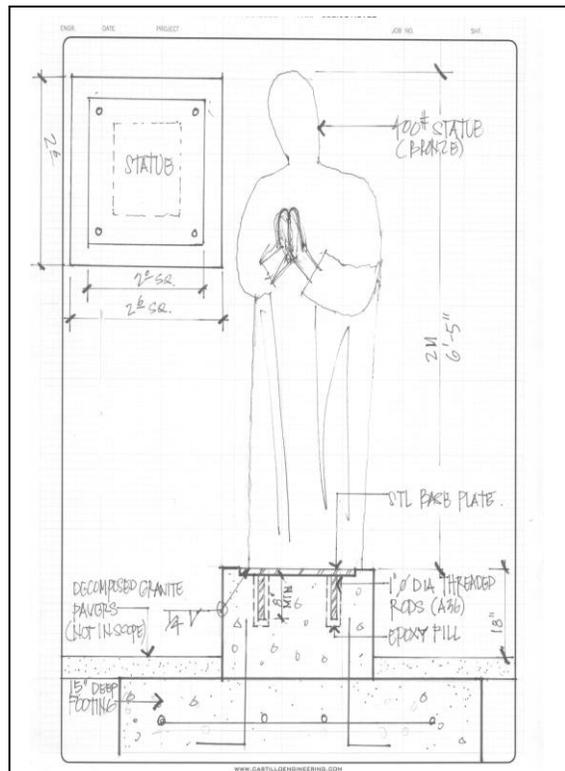
Oscar A. Romero Statue
Frontal View



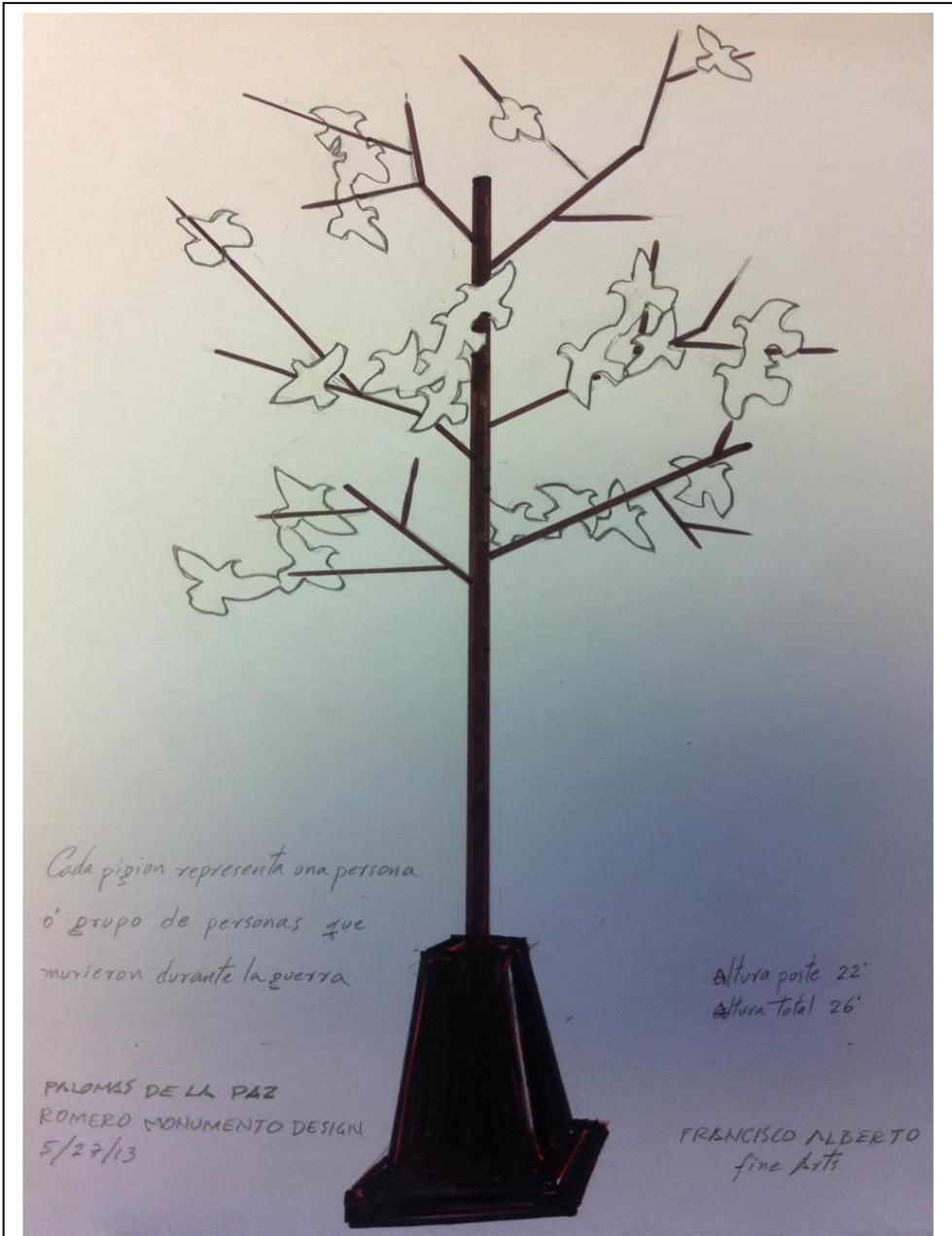
Oscar A. Romero Statue
3 / 4 View



Oscar A. Romero Statue
Rear View



Oscar A. Romero Statue
Conceptual Construction Detail



Dove Feature Concept