

APPROVED
NOV 07 2018

BOARD REPORT

BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS NO. 18-227

DATE November 7, 2018

C.D. 11

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: OAKWOOD RECREATION CENTER - INSTALLATION OF A MURAL PROJECT; CATEGORICAL EXEMPTION FROM THE CALIFORNIA ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY ACT (CEQA), PURSUANT TO ARTICLE III, SECTION 1, CLASS 1 (1) OF THE CITY CEQA GUIDELINES (EXTERIOR ALTERATIONS OF AN EXISTING FACILITY WITH NEGLIGIBLE OR NO EXPANSION OF USE)

AP Diaz

V. Israel

for *R. Barajas

DP

S. Piña-Cortez

H. Fujita

N. Williams



General Manager

Approved X

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Approve the installation of a mural project at Oakwood Recreation Center for a length of time of five (5) years (Project) as detailed in Exhibit A of this Report;
2. Authorize the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP) to issue the appropriate Right-of-Entry (ROE) permit, subject to the deposit of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) for the eventual removal of the mural;
3. Authorize RAP's Chief Accounting Employee or designee to establish the necessary account in 302/89/89723H with account name "Public Art Account" and set up sub-accounts as needed for the revenue and expenses generated for removal of approved art projects and for processing of public art applications;
4. Find that the proposed Project is categorically exempt from 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);
5. Authorize 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,
6. 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

Oakwood Recreation Center, located at 767 E. California Avenue in the Venice community of the City, is a Clean and Safe Spaces (CLASS) Park that features baseball diamonds, basketball courts, children's play area, indoor gym and community room. Programs include after-school club, arts and crafts, dance, seasonal camps and teen club.

RAP has been approached by the Eagle Rock Yacht Club, represented by Michelle Murphy and Christianna Wiggins, with a proposal to install a mural titled "Community" on the southeast (street) facing wall of the Recreation Center, located on California Avenue. Eagle Rock Yacht Club is submitting this request as part of submission for Mayor Garcetti's Clean Streets LA Challenge.

Eagle Rock Yacht Club has an ongoing relationship with Oakwood Recreation Center and is proposing to sponsor this mural as a civic engagement and beautification project with the surrounding community and youth. Eagle Rock Yacht Club will be partnering with Beautify Earth, a non-profit muralist movement, and artist Reuben Rojas, a local muralist, on the installation and maintenance of the proposed mural. Mr. Rojas, a founding member of Beautify Earth, has installed several public art murals in the Venice and Santa Monica communities. The proposed design is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

The applicant, Eagle Rock Yacht Club, is responsible for costs associated with the proposed mural. Mr. Rojas has submitted a signed Waiver of Rights as part of the application process and committed to a five-year maintenance program for the mural, including graffiti removal, however RAP reserves the right to remove the mural if it is not maintained to RAP Standards. At the end of five years RAP may elect to take over the maintenance responsibilities for the mural or to remove it at that time.

The proposed mural was presented to the Department of Cultural Affairs Board of Commissioners on March 14, 2018 at which time it received both Conceptual and Final Approval.

- The Department of Recreation and Parks Facility Repair and Maintenance Commission Task Force (Task Force) reviewed this proposal at their regularly scheduled meeting on May 2, 2018. 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 for consideration with the following stipulations:
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 - Public outreach will include both the Venice Neighborhood Council and the Oakwood Park Advisory Board.
 - Written agreement for maintenance with Beautify Earth to be in place prior to the issuance of any Right-of-Entry (ROE) permit.
 - Length of mural installation to be limited to time-frame of maintenance agreement with Beautify Earth.

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- Funds for removing the mural must be deposited with RAP prior to the issuance of any ROE permit.

On June 27, 2018 the proposed mural was presented to the Oakwood Park Advisory Board. Meeting attendees included members of the Park Advisory Board and the general community. All in attendance were supportive of the proposed mural and offered recommendations regarding color, content and youth participation. Oakwood Recreation Center staff in attendance also support the installation of the mural and the Eagle Rock Yacht Club. The attached mural rendering (Exhibit A) is reflective of the comments and suggestions made at this meeting.

On July 17, 2018, the proposed mural was presented to the Venice Neighborhood Council during the public comment portion of the meeting. The Neighborhood Council was generally supportive of this proposed beautification project and requested no additional information. Council District 11 and RAP management and staff support this project at Oakwood Recreation Center.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

The proposed project involves the installation of a mural on an exterior wall of an existing park facility. This will not result in any expansion of the use of the facility. Therefore, Staff recommends that the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners determine that the proposed Project is categorically exempt from the provisions of CEQA pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1 (1) of the City CEQA Guidelines and Article 19, Section 15301(a) of California CEQA Guidelines. A Notice of Exemption will be filed with the Los Angeles County Clerk upon Board's approval.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

There will be minimal fiscal impact to RAP's General Fund as RAP is responsible for routine maintenance of the mural. Costs of the mural creation, installation, anti-graffiti coating, and any non-routine maintenance are the responsibility of the applicant. The cost for the eventual removal of the mural will be paid by the applicant prior to the issuance of a Right-of-Entry Permit for the installation of the mural.

The Chief Accounting Employee, or designee, will establish a "Public Art Account" and set up sub-accounts as needed TBD for revenue and expenses generated for removal of approved art projects and for processing of public art applications. This account will earn interest over time as the amount for project removal is determined at the time the project is approved.

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

List of Attachment(s)

- 1) Exhibit A – Mural Rendering and Location

