REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

DATE December 14, 2005

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS


J. Combs J. Kolb
H. Fujita F. Mok
S. Huntley K. Regan
B. Jensen *M. Shull


Approved Disapproved Withdrawn

RECOMMENDATION:

1. Approve the additional art piece, entitled “I Once Knew A Child With AIDS.....Here We Remember,” attached as the sixth and final art panel to be made part of The Wall-Las Memorias Memorial;

2. Approve Amendment No. 4, substantially in the form attached, to the previously authorized Agreement (Contract No. 3117) between the Department of Recreation and Parks and The Wall-Las Memorias Project (Agency), extending the project completion deadline from March 31, 2005 to January 31, 2006, subject to the approval of the Mayor, in accordance with Executive Directive No. 16, the City Attorney as to form, and the City Council;

3. Direct the Board Secretary to transmit Amendment No. 4 to the Mayor and City Attorney for review as to form; and,

4. Authorize the Board President and Secretary to execute Amendment No. 4 upon receipt of the necessary approvals.
SUMMARY:

The Construction and Maintenance Agreement (Contract No. 3117) between the Department of Recreation and Parks (Department) and The Wall-Las Memorias Project (Agency) for the construction and maintenance of an AIDS Memorial (Project) was conditionally approved by the Board of Recreation and Park Commissioners (Board) at its meeting on March 20, 2003 (Board Report No. 03-94). The Agreement was executed on March 3, 2004, after the Agency had satisfied each of the conditions required by the Board. There have been three (3) amendments to the Agreement approved by the Board, with the most recent (Amendment No. 3) being approved on January 5, 2005 (Board Report No. 05-04), extending the construction completion deadline from the previously amended date of June 29, 2004 (Amendment No. 2 – Board Report No. 04-178) to March 31, 2005.

Due to unforeseen circumstances and a delay in selecting the art work for the sixth and final art panel, the Agency was unable to complete the Project by the March 31, 2005, deadline. The Project is 98% complete, with the installation of the sixth and final art panel being the only remaining element for completion. The Monument has been open to the public since the Agency hosted the monument’s dedication ceremony on December 1, 2004. The proposed amendment (Amendment No. 4) would extend the monument’s construction completion deadline from March 31, 2005, to January 31, 2006, allowing the Agency the necessary additional time to complete the project’s construction with the last art panel and remain in compliance with Contract No. 3117.

The Agency recently submitted the attached art piece (Exhibit-B) for the Board’s review and consideration. If approved by the Board, and once installed, the proposed piece entitled, “I Once Knew A Child With AIDS......Here We Remember,” will complete the Project. The proposed piece is a replacement art panel for the previously approved panel which was removed from the Project after the Board rescinded its prior approval on December 10, 2003 (Board Report No. 03-394). If approved, the installation of the art panel would occur in January, 2006.

The proposed piece was created by the artist, Alex Alferov. As explained by the Agency, the artist’s rendering includes a monumental close-up of a child’s face in the process of meditation or sleep, dreaming of a world where AIDS has been eradicated. Across the face is the title and around the border are depictions of butterflies which represent the passage of day (dark to light), which rise like souls towards the sky. The artist uses a multi-media approach beginning with black and white photography, then adding color and brush strokes to the image. The butterflies images are hand painted.
The Agency has submitted the art piece to the Cultural Affairs Commission for their consideration and approval, as required. The piece obtained an approval from the Public Art Committee on October 21, 2005, and a second approval from the Cultural Affairs Commission on December 2, 2005.

The Department has discussed the terms of the proposed amendment with the Agency, Superintendent of the Griffith-Metro Region, City Attorney, First District Council Office, and Mayor’s Office, and all parties have respectively agreed that the amendment is appropriate and acceptable.

ENVIRONMENTAL:

In accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program was prepared and adopted by the Board for this project on November 20, 2002 (Board Report No. 02-400), and a Notice of Determination was filed with the County Clerk on November 25, 2002.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

There is no fiscal impact to the Department associated with the approval of the proposed art panel and/or Amendment No. 4.

This report was prepared by Joel Alvarez, Management Analyst II, from the Department’s Real Estate and Asset Management Section.
I once knew a child with AIDS.

Here we remember.