RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Accept with gratitude a gift, in the amount of $32,120, to the City of Los Angeles (CITY) from Heart of Los Angeles Youth, Inc., (HOLA) for additional design funds for the Lafayette Park - Modern Multi-Story Recreation Building project (W.O. #E170317D), subject to the conditions in an Agreement to Accept Gift, to be deposited upon receipt of the funds from the donor.

2. Direct the Chief Financial Officer to deposit the Gift funds upon receipt for Lafayette Park - Modern Multi-Story Recreation Building in the amount of $32,120 into Fund 205, Department 88, Account No. AD01;

3. Approve the Agreement to Accept Gift, substantially in the form on file in the Board Office, subject to approval of the Mayor and review and approval of the City Attorney as to form;

4. Direct the Board Secretary to transmit the proposed Agreement to the Mayor, in accordance with Executive Directive No. 3, and to the City Attorney for review and approval as to form; and,

5. Authorize the Board President and Secretary to execute the Agreement subsequent to all necessary approvals.
SUMMARY:

The HOLA is a non-profit organization that has been working with the Recreation and Parks staff at Lafayette Park to provide youth enrichment programs. The Lafayette Park - Modern Multi-Story Recreation Building project (W.O. #E170317D), is located at 625 S. Lafayette Park Place in Los Angeles. The project is funded by Proposition K ($5,000,000) and Proposition 12 Roberti-Z’Berg-Harris ($500,000) funds. The project is currently in the design phase. However, the current construction budget of $3,900,000 is only sufficient to construct a full-sized basketball court gym addition with a small classroom, staff offices, restrooms, and storage areas. HOLA has requested that improvements be made to the existing recreation center (previously senior center) facilities and revisions be made to the current design plans for the building addition in order to set aside space for their enrichment programs. In order to do this, they have requested modifications to the current design of new gym building. Specifically HOLA would like the City to increase the floor area of the new classroom in the new building, modify the basement area in the existing building to provide for a HOLA program room and office, and to make other minor improvements to the existing portion of the building.

As the project funding is limited, the project cannot afford an increase in project scope without additional funding. Therefore, HOLA has applied for a grant from the Everychild Foundation for the increased construction cost for their requested increase in scope. Their grant application has passed the first round of review and has been placed on the short list. However, the award notification will not be made until December 2006. The design of this project cannot be placed on hold until the Everychild Foundation makes the grant decision. Therefore, the grant recipient, HOLA has offered to pay the additional architectural design fees of $32,120 for the additional scope items they have requested. If HOLA’s Lafayette Park project receives the requested construction funds from the Everychild Foundation, those funds would also be provided to the City and the additional project scope items requested by HOLA will be constructed. A Joint Use Agreement or Operating Agreement or equivalent between HOLA and the Department for use of the rooms/facilities described above would need to be negotiated separately in the event construction funds become available.

By its approval of the proposed Gift Agreement, HOLA affirms its understanding that if the Everychild grant is not approved for this project, that the City would not construct the additional requested improvements, and that HOLA would not receive any reimbursement for this gift.

Additionally, if additional construction funds are granted to this project by the Everychild Foundation, HOLA affirms that the City is not obligated to accept the funds or construct the additional improvements unless a Joint Use Agreement is negotiated and approved by the Board, and this action in no way obligates the City to enter into a Joint Use Agreement and in no way establishes specific rights relative to use of any existing or new facilities at Lafayette Park.
FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

There is no immediate fiscal impact to the Department; however, future operations and maintenance costs will be assessed upon completion of the project.

Prepared by Alice Gong, Project Manager, and reviewed by Neil Drucker, Program Manager, Recreational and Cultural Facilities Program; and by Bradley M. Smith, P.E., Chief Deputy City Engineer, Bureau of Engineering.
The Sr. Assistant City Attorney amended Recommendation No. 1 of the report to replace the last word of that sentence from “grantor” to “donor.”

In addition, the Sr. Assistant City Attorney advised the Board that a Negative Declaration had been filed with regard to the project underlying the report and therefore, the recreation building itself, with or without the addition that the report references, had been declared to not have a significant impact on the environment.

Motion

It was moved by Commissioner Spelling, seconded by Commissioner Casillas that Report No. 06-252 be approved as amended. There being no objections, the Motion was unanimously approved.