

APPROVED

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 10-144

DATE June 2, 2010

JUN 02 2010

BOARD OF RECREATION
and PARK COMMISSIONERS

C.D. 14

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: WABASH RECREATION CENTER – INSTALLATION OF MURAL

R. Adams _____
H. Fujita _____
S. Huntley _____
V. Israel _____

F. Mok _____
K. Regan _____
*M. Shull *[Signature]*

[Signature]
General Manager *JKM*

Approved *As amended*

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Preliminary *and final* approve *at* the installation of a mural on the Wabash Recreation Center, subject to approval of Cultural Affairs Commission (CAC) as required by Los Angeles Administrative Code Sec. 22.109; and, *and effective immediately after the*
2. Authorize the Department to issue the appropriate right-of-entry permit upon approval by CAC.

SUMMARY:

East Los Angeles Community Corporation (ELACC), a non-profit organization, has received a Public Works Community Beautification Grant for improvements to Wabash Recreation Center. Wabash Recreation Center is a heavily used facility in the East Los Angeles community of the City of Los Angeles which offers a variety of sports and recreation programming. It is located adjacent to Evergreen Elementary School and Malabar Library, and is a focal point for the surrounding community. ELACC has been a long time partner with Wabash Recreation Center, forming the Neighbors Building Neighborhoods Committee III (NBN III) for the express purpose of instigating improvements to the Center. ELACC has also organized a monthly community trash round-up at the Center. Currently ELACC seeks permission to utilize a portion of the Community Beautification Grant to install a mural on the outside of the Recreation Center.

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Over the past six months, ELACC has organized three different community meetings to discuss the mural's content. Each of these meetings were held at Wabash Recreation Center and had between 20-35 community members participate. The final design description and panels are attached to this report as Exhibit A.

The artist is Wenceslao Quiroz, an experienced artist with murals, well-known in Los Angeles and based in the Boyle Heights community. The mural is entitled Dream Catchers and is a visual panorama of symbols related to building friendships, unity, and the importance of community and family. It will be painted directly on the recreation center. Anti-graffiti coating will be applied over the mural, when completed, to protect it. Mural maintenance and repair is the responsibility of the artist, who has committed to a minimum of two repairs per year. These issues will be delineated in the right-of entry permit, which will provide for the mural's removal if it is not maintained. Removal of the mural is subject to the provisions of Federal and State law that require notice to artists prior to physical defacement, mutilation, alteration or destruction of works of fine art (17 U.S. Code 106A; California Civil Code section 987). ELACC is also working with Homeboy Industries to proactively prevent tagging of the mural.

The proposed mural has both Council Office and community support. Over 600 community members signed a petition in support of the mural at Wabash Recreation Center. This mural project has been an opportunity for all ages and groups to get together and work on a shared project, learn about each other and build bonds necessary for a strong community.

The proposed mural will be reviewed by the Cultural Affairs Commission on June 17, 2010, per Administrative Code Section 22.109. It is anticipated that the Cultural Affairs Commission will approve the mural at that time.

Staff has determined that the subject project is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article VII, Section 1, Class 1 (1) of the City CEQA Guidelines.

The Councilmember of this District and Metro Region management and staff support this project at Wabash Recreation Center.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

Negligible impact, due to anti-graffiti coating applied to mural and artist responsibility for maintenance, as well as possible minor savings to the Department over time, through reduced maintenance costs for the Department due to vandalism and trash.

This report was prepared by Melinda Gejer, City Planning Associate, Planning and Construction.

Exhibit A

Description of Wabash Mural Design, “Dream Catchers”

The mural design for “*Dream Catchers*” illustrates scenes of community, culture, and an optimistic view of self-empowerment.

The first image illustrated in this mural is of a Native American dream catcher depicted as a constellation of stars. The dream catcher constellation is followed by an illustration of people holding hands around a Ceiba tree and the Mayan tree of life. The Mayan tree of life represents knowledge and the connection of all forms of creation; it illustrates the idea that all life on earth is related. The foliage on the tree of life will be painted by community member’s hand prints.

A river runs across the circle of people holding hands as a representation of people attempting to come together regardless of geographical separation. The image that follows the tree of life is of a Mayan mythological goddess Ixchel, she is always associated with bodies of water and considered the Lady of Sacred Light, and Goddess of the rainbow. She is depicted carrying an upside-down womb vessel in her hands which represent the nourishing gift of water and creation.

The image that follows Ixchel is of a fisherman casting a fishnet. The fishnet contains images that keep people from capturing their dreams, such as people in the prison system, man-made borders that limits progress, and an image of zombie-like children playing video games instead of educating themselves. The pressure of the water that flows from Ixchel’s vessel rips through the fishnet, allowing carp fish to escape.

Carp fish are a symbol of advancement, strength and determination to overcome obstacles, it stands for courage and the ability to attain high goals. The water’s movement from Ixchel’s vessel is followed by an illustration of people from different generations and backgrounds coming together and working together with different entities for the common goal of progress and unification, they are the *Dream Catchers*.

Let's Activate! Project
Detailed Sketch and/or Drawing, Department of Cultural Affairs, City of Los Angeles
Dream Catchers

