



# Administrative Report

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J.3., File # PA20-1719

Meeting Date: 11/18/2020

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**TO:** PUBLIC ART COMMISSION  
**FROM:** JOHN LA ROCK, COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR

## **TITLE**

FUNDING FOR TRANSIT CENTER PUBLIC ARTWORK

## **RECOMMENDATION**

Discussion and possible action on a recommendation to allocate additional funding in an amount not to exceed \$100,000 from the John Parsons Public Art Fund to the Transit Center public artwork project.

## **BACKGROUND**

The City recently broke ground on the long-gestating capital improvement project to construct a new transit center on Kingsdale Avenue, adjacent to the Target retail store and across the street from the South Bay Galleria and South Bay Marketplace. The project was originally approved in Fiscal Year 2004-05 at a projected budget of \$5,460,000. Due to a number of land, budget, planning, and external factors, the project was delayed. The fifteen-year delay and valuation at today's dollars caused the project budget to be realized at \$12,237,439.

The Transit Center is partially funded by the Federal Transit Administration (FTA) and as part of the FTA's funding guidance, the inclusion of public art was encouraged and separately funded at \$75,000. With this incorporated funding, a systematic process of request for qualifications (RFQ) and request for proposals (RFP) for public art was undertaken by the Public Art Commission to identify potential public art for inclusion at the site of the transit center project. Ultimately, on April 19, 2011, the City Council unanimously approved a proposal by Volkan Alkanoglu for the public artwork "Gatewave" and a project budget of \$75,000.

At the time of selection, Mr. Alkanoglu was in residence in Los Angeles and was teaching at Los Angeles based universities. Included in the artist's original proposal and budget was the use of university students for research and assembly labor for the project.

As of this report, the artist is based in Portland, OR and has completed many significant artworks. His art and additional information can be viewed at [www.alkanoglu.com](http://www.alkanoglu.com) <<http://www.alkanoglu.com>>. Largely as a result of the span of time between the City Council's approval of the artwork and the actual commencement of the transit center project, but also due to the artist's current location and the absence of a student labor force, the revised budget for the artwork is \$175,000.

In order to complete the artist agreement with Mr. Alkanoglu for the "Gatewave" public artwork at the

transit center, and to have the artwork installed to coincide with the completion of the construction project, it is recommended that \$100,000 from the John Parsons Public Art Fund be allocated to the “Gatewave” public artwork. The Commission may provide input and ultimately make a recommendation to the City Council. The City Council will make the final determination regarding the art fund allocation and would receive the Commission’s input and any recommendation as part of their deliberation.

It should be noted that the Public Art Fund is projected to receive substantial impact fees from upcoming developments including, but not limited to, the Galleria project and One South project.

Additionally, the location of the “Gatewave” artwork at the new transit center is the potential site connection area for the proposed Metro Green Line extension.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Public artwork “Gatewave” image
2. Transit Center site map
3. Artist revised public artwork budget

**A. CALL MEETING TO ORDER/OATH OF OFFICE**

A Virtual Meeting of the City of Redondo Beach Public Art Commission was called to order by Chair Lapin at 7:00 p.m.

City Clerk Eleanor Manzano administered the Oath of Office to Commissioners Cagle, Klein, Sharma, and Chair Lapin.

**B. ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Cagle, Klein, Lapin, Milley, Richardson, Sharma

Commissioners Absent: Pucci

Officials Present: John LaRock, Director, Community Services  
Eleanor Manzano, City Clerk

**C. SALUTE TO THE FLAG**

Chair Lapin led in the Salute to the Flag.

**D. APPROVE OF ORDER OF AGENDA**

Motion by Commissioner Milley, seconded by Commissioner Cagle, to approve the Order of Agenda, as presented. Motion carried unanimously, by roll call vote, with Commissioner Pucci, absent.

**E. BLUE FOLDER ITEMS – ADDITIONAL BACK UP MATERIALS**

**E.1. Blue Folder Items**

Chair Lapin reported on Blue Folder Items submitted relative to Item No. J.1.

Motion by Commissioner Klein, seconded by Commissioner Sharma, to add the Blue Folder Item to the agenda. Motion carried unanimously, by roll call vote, with Commissioner Pucci, absent.

**F. CONSENT CALENDAR**

**F.1 Approve Affidavit of Posting of the Public Art Commission Special Meeting of November 18, 2020**

**F.2 Approve Minutes of the Public Art Commission Regular Meeting of January 22, 2020**

**F.3 Public Art Fund Report**

Community Services Director LaRock announced there were no public comments received on this item.

Motion by Commissioner Milley, seconded by Commissioner Sharma, to approve the Consent Calendar as presented. Motion carried unanimously, by roll call vote, with Commissioner Pucci, absent.

**G. EXCLUDED CONSENT CALENDAR ITEMS - None**

**H. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

**H.1 For eComments and Emails Received from the Public**

Director of Community Services LaRock announced there no were public comments on this item.

**I. ITEMS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS AGENDAS - None**

**J. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION PRIOR TO ACTION**

**J.1 Subcommittee Reports**

Director of Community Services LaRock reported Members of the Murals Subcommittee and the Marketing Subcommittee submitted documents to staff following the publication of the agenda (under Blue Folder Items) and deferred to Commissioner Milley for a report.

Commissioner Milley presented an update on assembling a murals program in the City; addressed murals associated with other projects; discussed reviews of other cities and locations and suggested a North Redondo Beach location, specifically, the Grant Avenue Train Overpass. He spoke about mural guidelines, a related application, prompting artists with thoughts, themes, celebrating culture and diversity, visibility, and examples from other cities. He requested the Commission approve moving forward with the project, including creating applications to proposed to City Council for approval.

Commissioner Klein added that the Subcommittee came up with two other locations in North Redondo Beach if the first location does not work and discussed the possibility of using panels to connect the murals on both sides of the bridge. Chair Lapin asked whether that would require an engineering study and Commissioner Klein stated the proposal included the need for studies, in general and for other cities and departments to get involved. In response to Chair Lapin's inquiry, Director of Community Services LaRock reported that eventually, City Council would approve the issuance of an RFP as it would include the encumbrance of City

funds and noted the importance of having the exact dimensionality or area of the walls to be painted, an initial staff analysis for creating work zones to install murals and creating a safe work environment for artists, the consideration of vehicular detours and costs. Commissioner Klein reported the mural would be on the main walls and the overpass and Commissioner Milley addressed the call for artists.

Commissioner Richardson asked about a list of locations where murals may be located and Commissioner Klein reported Director of Community Services LaRock had generated such a list and noted the Subcommittee's Plan B included one of the locations on that list. Director of Community Services LaRock stated the Plan B location was not on his list, as that is private property and read the suggested areas that could be considered by the Subcommittee. Commissioner Richardson noted a mural on business buildings facing Page Park and Director of Community Services LaRock reported it was installed by the business owner.

Director of Community Services LaRock noted the Commission may vote to finalize any parameters for the project to include in an RFP and any other parameters the Subcommittee would like to include in the RFP as well as where to issue the RFP, direct staff to analyze logistical aspects of confirming ownership and application to the structure as well as what their recommended workspace requirements would be for public safety. He stated the budget seems high and suggested doing additional research showing comparative programs and placing a cap on the materials reimbursement.

Chair Lapin polled the Commission to determine whether the Subcommittee should proceed to gather information based on Plan A, approving the suggested site and move the project forward. Members of the Commission concurred, noting the project will need much consideration, research, and should offer flexibility for artists.

Motion by Commissioner Klein, seconded by Commissioner Sharma, to have the Mural Subcommittee move forward with project, to finalize any parameters for the project to include in an RFP, based on Plan A, and any other parameters the Subcommittee would like to include in the RFP as well as where to issue the RFP, direct staff to analyze logistical aspects of confirming ownership and application to the structure as well as what their recommended workspace requirements would be for public safety, do additional research showing comparative programs and placing a cap on the materials reimbursement. Motion carried unanimously, by roll call vote, with Commissioner Pucci, absent.

Commissioner Klein provided an update of the activities from the Marketing Subcommittee; reported it focuses on the Utility Box program; noted the Subcommittee created the content and asked if the City would be willing to move forward with launching it.

Discussion followed regarding the possibility of advertising in newspapers, updating the City's website with direct links to the project, electronic publications and monthly email blasts, existing social media accounts, creating a Public Art Instagram account in the future, existing email lists, examples of call to artists and pre-approval by the City prior to launching marketing materials.

Members of the Commission commented on the examples of call to artists provided under Blue Folder items.

Director of Community Services LaRock suggested allowing the Subcommittee to finalize examples of call to artists to present to the Commission for consideration in an upcoming meeting. He asked that Members of the Commission provide email information to populate a master list of marketing information recipients. He discussed working through the Redondo Beach School District administration to distribute information to schools and identifying targets at the university level.

Commissioner Klein requested a budget of \$2,000 for ad placement/marketing and Director of Community Services LaRock reported the Commission may make a recommendation to City Council which will need to approve the expenditure of funds. He added the only source available to the Commission is the Public Art Fund.

Director of Community Services LaRock announced there no were public comments on this item.

Motion by Commissioner Klein, seconded by Commissioner Sharma, to direct the Marketing Subcommittee to finalize examples of call to artists to present to the Commission for consideration in an upcoming meeting and ask Members of the Commission to submit emails to consolidate into a master list of recipients of marketing collateral materials. Motion carried unanimously, by roll call vote, with Commissioner Pucci, absent.

## **J.2 Utility Box Public Art Program Submissions**

Director of Community Services LaRock presented a background of the item including approval of ten utility boxes identified in the Commission's meeting in September and addressed the artwork submissions.

Chair Lapin referenced the utility box on Esplanade and Avenue I and stated her selection is Samuel Dixon 1 (lower box) and 2 (upper box).

Commissioner Sharma stated her selections for that location to be 6A and 6C, by Artist Marisabel Bazan, 17B and 17E, by Artist Toriano Hudson, 24A and 24E, by Artist Theresa Muley, or 25A, by Artist Rishi Pandey.

Chair Lapin suggested that each Commissioner email his/her recommendations to Director of Community Services LaRock for compilation and review them at the next meeting.

Commissioner Richardson agreed with Chair Lapin; stated the submissions need further review and opined consideration of the environment should be given to each utility box location.

Chair Lapin agreed and added that some of the utility boxes are partially obscured; felt the artwork should match the surrounding areas and that the box visibility should be considered.

She recommended that Members of the Commission email staff with his/her choice of artwork for each of the ten selected utility boxes to review at the next Commission meeting.

Director of Community Services LaRock suggested setting a maximum number of choices for each Commission to submit, for each utility box. Chair Lapin recommended each Commissioner submit a primary and secondary choice of artwork for each utility box.

Commissioner Klein suggested the Commission choose the top ten artwork designs and assign them to the various utility boxes.

Discussion followed regarding making the artwork fit the various utility box specifications.

The Commission concurred to consider artwork for the utility box on Esplanade and Avenue I at this time.

Commissioner Sharma restated her recommended artwork as 6A and 6C, by Artist Marisabel Bazan and 17B and 17E, by Artist Toriano Hudson.

Commissioner Milley preferred 6A and 6C, by Artist Marisabel Bazan for the utility box located at Esplanade and Avenue I.

Commissioner Richardson preferred the Beach Chair submitted by Artist Samuel Dixon for the top box and leaving the bottom box green.

Commissioner Cagle liked the Beach Chair by Artist Samuel Dixon for the top box and Sailor's Delight for the bottom box.

Commissioner Klein liked the Sandals, by Artist Toriano Hudson as well as the Surfer (17B and 17E).

Director of Community Services LaRock announced Commissioner Cagle, Chair Lapin and Commissioner Richardson voted for Artist Samuel Dixon, although Commissioner Richardson voted for one of the two Dixon works.

Commissioner Richardson agreed with using two of Artist Dixon's artwork.

The Public Art Commission concurred to approve Samuel Dixon 1 (lower box) and 2 (upper box) for the utility box located on Esplanade and Avenue I.

Motion by Commissioner Milley, seconded by Commissioner Richardson, to have each Member of the Commission choose a primary and secondary art design for each of the ten approved utility boxes and email his/her choices to staff to review and finalize at the next Commission meeting. Motion carried unanimously, by roll call vote, with Commissioner Pucci, absent.

Chair Lapin reported that at the last meeting, Commission Klein recommended selecting the

large utility box at 190th and Prospect to place an artwork complimenting the artwork already installed on the smaller box and agreed with the recommendation. She suggested contacting the artist, Eric Michael, to create a companion piece for the large box. Director of Community Services LaRock suggested doing that as a referral to staff to agendize outreach to Mr. Michael.

Commissioner Sharma referenced existing utility boxes at Wilderness Park; suggested adding them to the list of approved utility boxes and recommended concepts 3 and 24E. Chair Lapin noted it will be considered when the Commission reviews the next five locations.

### **J.3 Funding for Transit Center Public Artwork**

Director of Community Services LaRock presented the staff report; addressed a brief history of the project; reported the project has broken ground; discussed the budget and funding; spoke about the RFQ and RFP process and responses; indicated City Council approved an art piece called, "Gatewave"; announced there was a revaluation of the art project and noted the artist remains interested in the project and provided the City with a revised budget. He asked for the Commission's input and recommendations to present to Council.

In response to Commissioner Richardson's question, Director of Community Services LaRock addressed the RFQ and RFP process; noted the artwork was selected by the City Council following an extensive process by the Public Art Commission and reported the consideration at this time is to deal with the funding. He added the original budget was \$75,000 and the revised budget is \$175,000; addressed location of the artwork in and the layout of the Transit Center and discussed security. In terms of the budget, he reported staff will recommend that City Council make up the difference in costs from the Public Art fund; addressed the current fund balance and discussed future revenue deposits into the fund.

Motion by Commissioner Sharma, seconded by Commissioner Milley, to receive and file the report and support staff's recommendation to allocate \$100,000 from the Public Art fund for the Transit Center public artwork. Motion carried, by roll call vote, with Commissioner Cagle, opposed, Commissioner Richardson, abstaining and Commissioner Pucci, absent.

### **K. MEMBER ITEMS AND REFERRALS TO STAFF**

Chair Lapin requested that staff invite Artist Eric Michael to submit artwork for the small utility box at 190th and Prospect and place the item on the agenda for the next Public Arts Commission meeting. Additionally, she asked to review upcoming projects at the next Commission meeting. She spoke positively regarding the Sunset Silhouette mosaic art project; commended Artists Patti, Linnett and Debbie Collette and thanked RBPd Community Services Officer Maria Temprano and the Friends of Redondo Beach Arts, specifically, Dr. Chantal Toporow.

### **L. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business to come before the Commission, Commissioner Sharma



motioned, seconded by Commissioner Milley, to adjourn at 9:26 p.m., to the next Public Art Commission meeting on Wednesday, January 27, 2021, at 7:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously, by roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,

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Laurie Koike  
Interim Director of Community Services