

## Building A Better Long Beach

February 2, 2009

REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY BOARD MEMBERS
City of Long Beach
California

## RECOMMENDATION:

Approve and authorize the Executive Director to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding with California State University, Long Beach to negotiate the development of the Broadway Block. (Downtown – District 2)

## DISCUSSION

The Redevelopment Agency (Agency) has spent many years exploring different development concepts for the Broadway Block, bounded by Broadway, Long Beach Boulevard, 3<sup>rd</sup> Street and Elm Avenue. In May 2005, the City of Long Beach (City) and the Agency jointly released a Request for Proposals (RFP) for a multiple block development along Long Beach Boulevard between 1<sup>st</sup> Street and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. The RFP included the Broadway Block. In July 2005, the City and the Agency received four development team proposals for the Broadway Block.

Based on the extensive review of all proposals, on January 11, 2007, Agency and City entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Williams & Dame Development, Inc. to allow for preliminary negotiations and terms regarding the development of the Broadway Block. The concept of housing for California State University, Long Beach (CSULB) students was introduced and explored during these negotiations but no significant movement occurred. The MOU has since expired and Williams & Dame no longer has any involvement in the block.

Agency staff wishes to continue negotiations with CSULB personnel and recommends execution of an MOU regarding development of student housing for the graduate arts program, which will detail the following understandings:

- <u>Term</u>: The term of the MOUs shall begin when fully executed and expire 365 days thereafter.
- <u>Property Acquisition and Disposition</u>: The parties shall diligently negotiate the development of a portion of the Broadway Block, including defining the development components for a graduate arts program, graduate student housing, and art studios.

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 <u>Development Process</u>: Agency shall retain an architect to develop conceptual plans, which shall be jointly reviewed by Agency and CSULB. Agency shall initiate and fund initial planning efforts, including financial feasibility modeling, land planning, and land ownership issues. The parties shall work cooperatively to negotiate business points for a Disposition and Development Agreement (DDA) or a ground lease.

This project presents a momentous opportunity for the Agency, the City of Long Beach, and CSULB to have a significant arts and university presence in Downtown Long Beach, at the gateway to the East Village Arts District.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Adopt recommendation.

Respectfully submitted,

CRAIG BECK

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR** 

CB:AJB:CSM:BEC

Attachment: Exhibit A – Site Map

