



CITY OF LONG BEACH

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS, RECREATION & MARINE



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www.LBParks.org

selected
best in the nation

June 13, 2013

MEMBERS OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Receive and file a report on the progress of the Alamitos Park (Armory Park) project.

DISCUSSION

In 2011, the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine (PRM) successfully applied for a \$2.8 million grant from the State Department of Parks and Recreation for the development of a new park at the intersection of 7th Street and Martin Luther King, Jr. Avenue. The project proposes to develop the existing Martin Luther King, Jr., Street right of way between 7th and 6th Streets into a neighborhood park. The change in land use at this location from street to park will eliminate the most dangerous intersection in Long Beach.

PRM staff held a series of public meetings in 2011 to meet the grant criteria for community engagement. A meeting to solicit input to the residents closest to the park site was held at the Pacific Islander Ethnic Art Museum (PIEAM) on May 16, 2011. At that meeting the residents voiced their support for the project as well as their preferred park elements. These elements included a playground, a space for public art and culture and a skate plaza.

Since the award of the grant, as well as the award of an additional Caltrans grant to the Department of Public Works (PW), the project team has been working on the details of the park and the surrounding traffic patterns and impacts. On May 20, 2013, Vice Mayor Garcia held a public meeting to provide an update on the project to residents in the area. Staff from PRM, PW, and the project design team returned to PIEAM to discuss the progress of the project.

The park design was presented to the community in four components (attached):

- Site/Programming Diagram
- Cultural + Site Inspiration
- Landscape Precedent Imagery
- Vehicular Circulation

"We create community and enhance the quality of life through people, places, programs and partnerships"

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In addition to the presentation of park design, PW Traffic Engineering presented a re-design of the street framework necessary to accommodate the park while reducing traffic impacts to the neighborhoods surrounding the park. Following the presentations the public was asked to provide input on the proposed design framework. The residents in attendance were overwhelmingly in support of the direction of the project. Comments included a requested emphasis on pedestrian access around the site, the lack of any playground for children in the immediate area, the desire to incorporate the museums and other institutions in the area into the design, and a request to engage youth in the design of the skate plaza.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully Submitted,



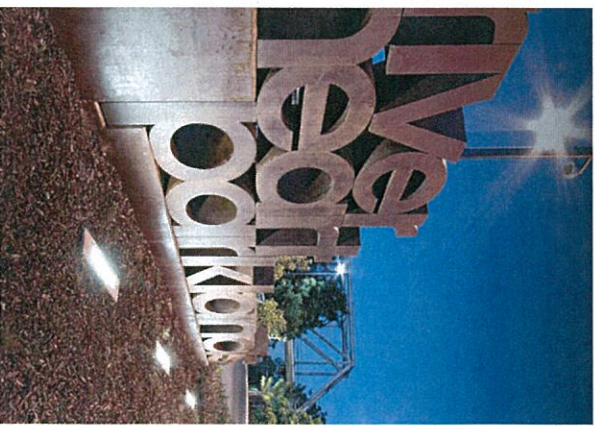
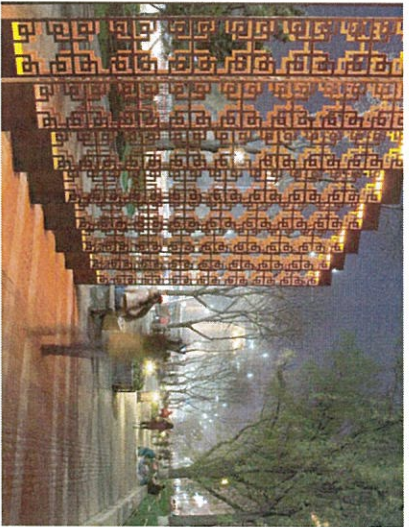
RAMON AREVALO
MANAGER
MAINTENANCE AND DEVELOPMENT

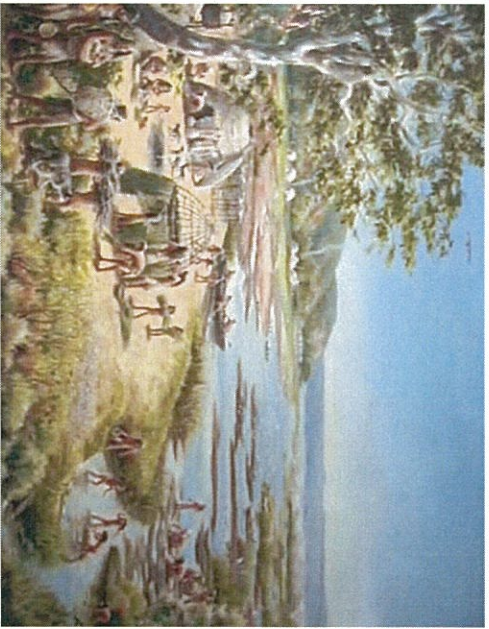
APPROVED:



GEORGE CHAPJIAN
DIRECTOR

Attachments

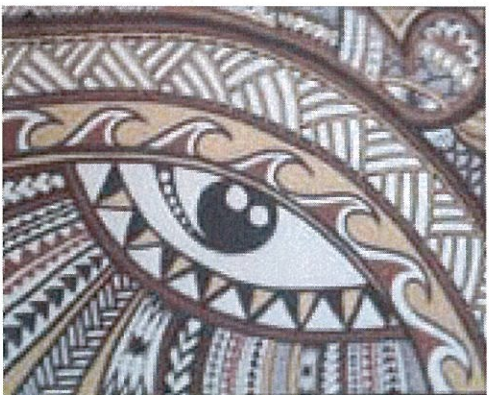




Tongva Villages: native plants, contact w/ nature, natural form



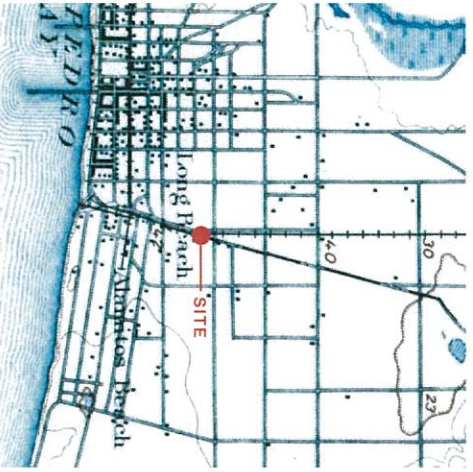
Populus fremontii: "Los Alamitos" translates to "Little Cottonwoods"



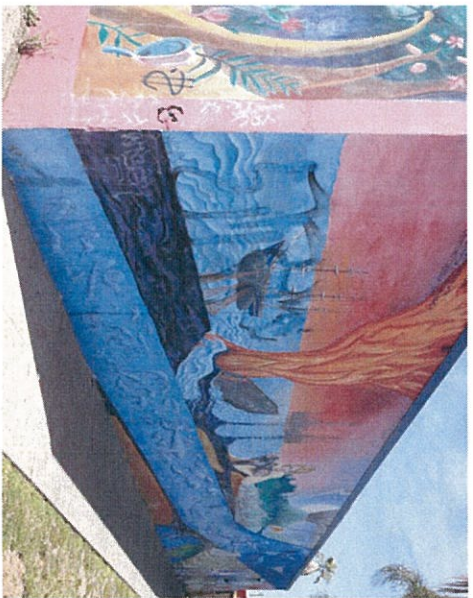
Micronesian Art: geometric forms, earthy colors



Diversity: signage or other elements reflective of Long Beach's many cultures



Los Angeles Terminal Railway: ran through the project site beginning in the 1890's



Murals: Respect views and themes of adjacent murals/art



MOLAA: strong colors and forms



Latin American Art: bright colors and abstract forms

