

October 15, 2020

MEMBERS OF THE PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

City of Long Beach
California

RECOMMENDATION:

Recommend to the City Manager the approval of an art installation as an improvement for public recreation at the Red Car Greenbelt, which meets a recreational need in the City (District 3).

DISCUSSION

The Red Car Greenbelt is a 3.66-acre park with a pedestrian walking trail and drought-tolerant native landscaping on the former Pacific Electric Right-of-Way (PE ROW), between Park Avenue and Ximeno Avenue. The Greenbelt features trailheads at the entrance on 4th Street at Park Avenue and at the entrance on Ximeno Avenue, south of 7th Street, and includes a crossing of the 6th Street Bike Boulevard. The Red Car Greenbelt's original design included a location for a public art installation at the trailhead entrance on 4th Street and Park Avenue, but due to a lack of funds, no public art installation was completed prior to the opening in March 2018. Recently, funding has been identified for the installation of public art.

After a search for professional artists who had worked with municipalities, and the ability to produce art pieces within the specified budget, Katherine England, who produced mosaic sculptural pieces for the City of Fullerton, was the selected artist. Ms. England is a visual artist who also teaches in schools, in her studio, and at art retreats nationwide. In addition to creating and promoting public works of art, Ms. England has taught and has been an activist for art education in the public school system for nearly thirty years. Ms. England has installed public art sculptures for public agencies City of Fullerton and City of Anaheim, along with art installations in several schools. Ms. England has chosen to partner with local Long Beach artist Dawn Mendelson who has been creating and teaching mosaic art for over 20 years, specializing in the pique assiette style, which uses recycled materials. Ms. Mendelson is the managing director of Piece by Piece, a non-profit that brings mosaic art to at-risk communities (South Central Los Angeles and Skid Row) and she leads art projects through ArtWorksLBC, a healthy neighborhood initiative using art as a conduit to building community and promoting wellness. Ms. Mendelson has also produced art pieces for the City of Brea as well for school districts.

Three mosaic sculpture pieces are proposed by Ms. England, one at each of the Greenbelt trailhead entrances and one at an appropriate location along the Greenbelt walking trail. The pieces are inspired by the native flowers planted in the Red Car Greenbelt and the concept was presented to the community at a virtual community hosted by the Third District Council Office on Tuesday September 29, 2020. The concept generated community consensus and Ms. England is finalizing the details of her proposal.

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with the community and Department staff. The community presentation, art proposal and results of the community engagement are included as Attachment A.

The Commission recommends to the City Manager plans for the development, beautification and maintenance of public park and recreational areas, so Commission approval is requested.

FISCAL IMPACT

The public art installation is funded by \$90,000 in General Capital funds and \$35,000 in Measure A funds. These funds are currently budgeted in the Public Works Department and will be transferred to the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine for this project. Upon installation, maintenance of the art pieces will be the responsibility of the Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine. Funding for this maintenance cost has not been identified, and will be requested as part of the FY22 budget process.

SUGGESTED ACTION:

Approve recommendation.

Respectfully Submitted,



GLADYS KAISER
MANAGER
COMMUNITY RECREATION SERVICES



HURLEY OWENS
MANAGER
MAINTENANCE OPERATIONS



MEREDITH REYNOLDS
MANAGER
PARK PLANNING & PARTNERSHIPS

APPROVED:



BRENT DENNIS
DIRECTOR

BD:vd:SS:GK:HO:MR

Attachment A: Public Art Sculptures at Red Car Greenbelt Presentation

