



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## JOINT COUNCIL AND REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** February 10, 2009

**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers  
Chairperson and Boardmembers

**FROM:** Engineering Division, Public Works Department  
Housing and Redevelopment Division, Community Development  
Department

**SUBJECT:** West Beach Public Art Program Professional Services Contract

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council and the Agency Board:

- A. Authorize the General Services Manager to execute a purchase order not to exceed \$123,100 with Richard Irvine and Raphel Perea de la Cabada for design, fabrication and construction consulting of public art for three of the four plazas of the West Beach Public Art Program as part of the Redevelopment Agency-funded West Beach Pedestrian Improvement Project, and authorize the General Services Manager to approve expenditures up to \$12,300 for extra services that may result from necessary changes to the scope of work:
- B. Authorize the General Services Manager to execute a purchase order not to exceed \$25,600 with Lori Ann David for design, fabrication and construction consulting of public art for one of the four plazas of the West Beach Public Art Program as part of the Redevelopment Agency-funded West Beach Pedestrian Improvement Project, and authorize the General Services Manager to approve expenditures up to \$2,500 for extra services that may result from necessary changes to the scope of work; and
- C. Adopt, by reading of title only, A Resolution of the Council of the City of Santa Barbara and the City of Santa Barbara Redevelopment Agency Approving and Adopting the Findings Required by Health and Safety Code Section 33445 for Funding of Capital Improvements for the West Beach Public Art Program.

### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:**

The Redevelopment Agency Board has appropriated a total of \$3.5 million to the West Beach Pedestrian Improvement Project for capital improvements to improve the pedestrian linkage and safety between Stearns Wharf and the Harbor. Public Art has always been seen as a vital element of this project for its ability to add visual interest, express history and story-telling, and assist in way-finding. An ad-hoc sub-committee was formed to identify opportunities for public art and to make recommendations to the Visual Art in Public Places committee which included art elements and thematic topics. These

recommendations were approved in July 2008 and an RFP process was used to select and commission artists or design teams.

A selection panel was formed to review the submissions and select proposals for commissioning. As a result of all information provided, the selection panel and staff recommend the design teams of Irvine and Perea de la Cabada for development of the art in three of the four project plazas and Lori Ann David and the Chumash collaborative for development of the art in the fourth plaza as part of the West Beach Public Art Program.

## **BACKGROUND:**

On January 27, 2005, at a Special Meeting of the Redevelopment Agency (RDA), the Board appropriated \$2 million for capital improvements aimed at improving the pedestrian linkage and safety between Stearns Wharf and the Harbor. With this funding, the West Beach Pedestrian Improvement Project was established. The Conceptual Motion Company was contracted to develop the project from concept through final design. As part of the Fiscal Year 2007 budget, the Redevelopment Agency Board appropriated an additional \$1.25 million to the existing \$2 million appropriation, and an additional \$250,000 as part of the Fiscal Year 2009 budget, for a total funding level of \$3.5 million.

As part of the project, an ad-hoc sub-committee was formed to identify opportunities for public art. The sub-committee was composed of representatives of the City Arts Advisory Committee, the Visual Art in Public Places Committee, the Santa Barbara Maritime Museum, the County Arts Commission, Agency staff, and The Conceptual Motion Company. From April through June 2008, the sub-committee met several times to walk the site, review the project design proposal, and develop recommendations for public art elements. These recommendations were presented and approved at the July 24, 2008 Visual Arts in Public Places meeting. The Conceptual Motion Company incorporated these recommendations to the degree possible given the varied constraints of the area. Recent design review of the project by the Architectural Board of Review and the Historic Landmarks Commission has led to further scope refinement.

The project was presented to, and received final approval by, the Architectural Board of Review on January 6, 2009. The Historic Landmarks Commission approved the project on January 7, 2009. The design development and review, as well as fabrication of the art program elements, will occur during the project construction bid and contract approval process. Construction is expected to begin May 2009 and be complete in October 2009.

## **DISCUSSION:**

### **West Beach Public Arts Program**

Public art has always been seen as a vital element of the project for its ability to add visual interest, express history and story-telling, and assist in way-finding. Agency staff has worked closely with the County Arts Commission to research existing public art models and to develop the West Beach Public Art Program. The program supports the overall goals of the project, responds to the varied requirements specific to the area, and fully integrates public art into the larger capital improvement project. The overall goals of the program are as follows:

- Increase the appeal and interest of West Beach by bringing art into the pedestrian environment and life of the area
- Enrich the lives of residents and visitors of West Beach as well as the community as a whole
- Illustrate and engage the public in key stories related to the history of the Santa Barbara Waterfront

### **Request for Proposals Process**

In conjunction with the Arts Commission, Agency staff developed a Request for Proposals (RFP) that outlined project and program goals, selection criteria, design guidelines, and a schedule for deliverables. The overall theme for the program was "History of the Waterfront," and four site-specific topics on this theme were identified: environmentalism, Chumash, Los Baños Pool, and the working harbor. Artists were to take these topics as a starting point for their content. Art elements identified in the RFP program scope were: enhancements to the sidewalk at the four new plaza areas along Cabrillo Boulevard; benches at the walkway entrance at Los Baños; and a drinking fountain at Sea Landing.

As part of the RFP process, attendance at one of two site walk-throughs was required in order to be eligible to apply to the program. One meeting was held on a weekday late afternoon, the other on a weekend morning. RDA, Arts Commission, and Public Works staff attended both meetings to review the project and answer questions posed by attendees. A total of 25 individuals attended these mandatory meetings.

A selection panel was formed to review the applications, select proposals for commissioning and advise development through the design review process. The selection panel is composed of representatives of the Arts Advisory Committee, Visual Art in Public Places, Parks and Recreation Commission, County Arts Commission, Historic Landmarks Commission, and Agency staff. Staff liaisons from the Parks and Recreation Department and Public Works Department attended selection panel meetings and advised as requested.

### **SELECTION AND RECOMMENDATION:**

The selection panel reviewed 10 complete proposals from individual artists and design teams and created a short list of four. The applicants were then interviewed by the selection panel. Follow-up information was requested of two of the applicants, and the other two were notified that they were not selected.

Through this process, the panel selected the application from Richard Irvine and Rafael Perea de la Cabada for commissioning. Additionally, the panel identified the application by Lori Ann David and a Chumash collaborative, while not being a best fit for this project, as having unique merit for its cultural and community-based content. The panel recommended that this proposal be given further consideration for development as its own project. After initial investigation in this regard, staff strongly encouraged the inclusion of this proposal as part of the Program. As a result, the selection panel and staff recommend the design

teams of Irvine and Perea de la Cabada as well as Lori Ann David and the Chumash collaborative to develop their proposals as part of the West Beach Public Art Program.

The tile-mosaic proposal from Lori Ann David will be installed in the new plaza hardscape across from Ambassador Park and addresses the topic of Chumash history. The content, design and fabrication of this work will be the result of comprehensive collaboration and contribution by multiple Chumash bands. It promises to be a unique and rich expression of the local Chumash community.

The proposal from Richard Irvine and Raphel Perea de la Cabada includes concepts for sidewalk enhancements in tile mosaic to the remaining three plaza areas and new concrete benches at Los Baños. The team has worked together on multiple previous projects, and public installations. Their proposal presents an elegant design solution that is visually interesting, conveys the history of the Waterfront area, and is in keeping with the aesthetic of West Beach.

Both scopes of work include design development through the review process, preparation and fabrication of art, consultation as requested during Project construction, and development of a maintenance plan and schedule. They also respond to the need for durable and vandalism-resistant design. The total cost of both proposals with an additional contingency allocation is \$163,500, which is within the estimated budget for this Program. Staff will present additional graphics in a PowerPoint presentation at this meeting.

Note that one of the art components requested in the RFP, a decorative art fountain at Sea Landing, did not receive any responses acceptable to the panel. Staff intends to further explore opportunities to accomplish that component outside of this RFP process but in coordination with the West Beach Pedestrian Improvement Project.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY CODE SECTION 33445**

California Community Redevelopment Law, Health and Safety Code Section 33445 allows a redevelopment agency, with the consent of the legislative body, to fund public improvement projects on property that is publicly-owned if the project meets certain findings. The redevelopment of the West Beach Public Art Program meets all the required findings in Health and Safety Code Section 33445 because the proposed improvements are on publicly-owned land, are of benefit to the Central City Redevelopment Project Area, because they will generate additional pedestrian activity by locals and tourists, and add to the attractive environment of the Project Area. No other reasonable means of financing the improvements are available. In addition, the improvements to the area will eliminate blighting conditions inside the Project Area by encouraging pedestrian activity in and around the site. An increase in these activities improves the vitality of the Project Area by encouraging economic activity by locals and visitors, which leads to additional public and private improvements, and thereby eliminates blight and the conditions that lead to blight.

**BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION:**

The RDA had estimated a total cost of \$176,600 for the West Beach Public Art Program as a portion of the West Beach Pedestrian Improvement Project construction budget. There is adequate funding in the Project account to cover the costs of the proposed professional services contracts of \$163,500. The current account includes approximately \$2.85 million and the construction cost estimate exclusive of the Art Program is \$2.6 million.

**SUSTAINABILITY IMPACT:**

Agency sponsored capital projects incorporate environmentally responsible design and construction techniques including, but not limited to, the specification of recycled content building materials, construction debris recycling processes, and the use of drought tolerant landscaping. These techniques further the City's Sustainability Goals in a variety of ways specific to the individual project and include reducing waste, recycling, and reducing resource consumption. Where appropriate, these measures will be incorporated into the installation of work as part of the West Beach Public Art Program.

**PREPARED BY:** Pat Kelly, Assistant Public Works Director/City Engineer  
David Gustafson, Assistant Community Development  
Director/Housing and Redevelopment Manager

**SUBMITTED BY:** Christine Andersen, Public Works Director  
Paul Casey, Deputy Director

**APPROVED BY:** City Administrator's Office