



# CITY OF SANTA BARBARA

## COUNCIL AGENDA REPORT

**AGENDA DATE:** January 25, 2011  
**TO:** Mayor and Councilmembers  
**FROM:** Airport Administration, Airport Department  
**SUBJECT:** Airport Public Art Program

**RECOMMENDATION:** That Council

- A. Authorize the Airport Director to execute a Loan of Asset Agreement, subject to approval by the City Attorney, between the City and the County of Santa Barbara for the long-term loan of a Santa Barbara County Courthouse Lantern; and
- B. Authorize the Airport Director to execute a Loan of Asset Agreement between the City and the David Bermant Foundation for the long-term loan of a kinetic sculpture, "Good Time Clock IV," by artist George Rhoads.

### **DISCUSSION:**

#### **Background**

The Airline Terminal Project is now under construction and will be completed in 2011.

One component of the Project is a public art program. Airport staff has been working with the City Arts Committee, Visual Arts in Public Places Committee, and the Santa Barbara County Arts Commission staff in the development of the Public Art Program.

The Public Art Program consists of three public art components: the long-term loan of existing art to the Airport, commissioned art that will be part of the Terminal architecture, and a rotating exhibit of regional art.

### **Santa Barbara County Courthouse Lantern**

The County of Santa Barbara has generously offered the long-term loan of a Courthouse lantern to the City for display in the new Airline Terminal.

The 1930s lantern hung in the Hall of Records for many years. In 2003, when the Hall of Records underwent an interior historic rehabilitation the lantern was taken down and not replaced. It was stored in the Courthouse basement for many years.

The Airport Department retained the services of a local qualified conservator and restoration expert, Halroyd Studios, to refurbish the lantern. After replacing missing glass panes, new wiring, new paint, and refurbishment of other historical details, the lantern has been returned for many more years of enjoyment and useful life. The lantern will hang in the entry pavilion of the new terminal where over 2,200 passengers will view it each day.

The proposed agreement provides for the transportation, restoration, installation and maintenance of the Lantern by the City. The total cost of restoration was \$10,000.

### **The “Good Time Clock IV” Kinetic Sculpture**

In 1990 the David Bermant Foundation sponsored a major show called P.U.L.S.E. (People Using Light, Sound, and Energy). It reflected art that David Bermant felt was pertinent to our time and was art that utilized modern science and technology. Mr. Bermant felt that such art should be shown in public places, not just in museums and galleries. As part of the show kinetic art was exhibited at the Airport, UCSB and other public venues in the community. At the Airport, a kinetic sculpture known as “Good Time Clock IV” by artist George Rhoads was displayed during the show and the Foundation generously allowed the sculpture to remain at the Airport. Conservatively, for the past 20 years over 8 million travelers and community members have been intrigued and delighted by the sculpture.

Good Time Clock IV was designed by George Rhoads, a painter and sculptor. He is best known for the large audiokinetic sculptures that attract and engage people throughout the world. Balls roll and percussion devices clatter and chime in airports, hospitals, art museums, science museums, and other public places.

Both the Foundation and Airport staff wish to relocate the sculpture to the new airline terminal facilities for the future enjoyment of the community and its visitors. The proposed agreement is for the long-term loan of the Sculpture and for its installation at the new airline terminal complex.

The agreement also provides for cost-sharing of needed repairs and refurbishment of the Sculpture. The City will pay one-half the cost of the repairs not-to-exceed \$22,500 to Creative Machines, Inc., the Arizona company that builds all of the artist's sculptures. The costs include dismantling, transportation, repair, refurbishment and installation of the sculpture.

The Foundation will continue to insure and maintain the sculpture once it is reinstalled at the Airport.

The Airport's Public Art Program will be more robust because of the generous loan of significant art by organizations such as the David Bermant Foundation and County of Santa Barbara. Installation of works of historical or cultural value to the community at the Airport will greatly increase the number of people able to see and appreciate them, and help create the ambiance known as the "Santa Barbara experience" in the new terminal building.

#### **BUDGET/FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

Funding for the Airport Public Art Program is included in the Airline Terminal Improvement Project with \$100,000 of the Project budget allocated for that purpose. Additionally, grant funding is also being pursued to leverage the program budget.

**SUBMITTED BY:** Karen Ramsdell, Airport Director

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