



Cultural Arts Programs

Cultural Arts & Marketing Division

TO: Public Art Advisory Committee

ATTN: Judy Moran and Andrew Woodd, Co-chairs

FROM: Steven Huss, Cultural Arts Manager

DATE: January 7, 2013

SUBJECT: Review and Take Action On the Proposal by Artist Alan Leon to Paint Caltrans Columns Located at Shattuck Avenue & 54th Street in North Oakland and the Request that City Accept and Make Application to Caltrans to Approve the Project

SUMMARY

The Public Art Advisory Committee (PAAC) has been asked to review and to consider approving a proposal by artist Alan Leon to paint 14 Caltrans underpass columns at 54th Street & Shattuck Avenue in north Oakland. The proposed project would be funded through a grant from the Open Circle Foundation and various donations. The PAAC's acceptance of the proposal would constitute a recommendation to City Council to pass a resolution for City staff to apply to Caltrans seeking acceptance of this project on Caltrans property.

BACKGROUND

In 2012, artist Alan Leon completed "Temescal Flows," a painted mural on the underpass of State Route 24 at 52nd Street & Shattuck Avenue. The mural was sponsored by the Temescal-Telegraph Business Improvement District and was partially funded by a City of Oakland Public Art Program "Open Proposals" grant as well as a Cultural Funding Program Individual Artist project grant. At this time, in response to community requests for an artistic treatment to the 14 oval columns at 54th & Shattuck (also a part of Caltrans' State Route 24 infrastructure), Mr. Leon has developed the "Shattuck Avenue Gateway" proposal. The intent of this project is to provide life-enhancing, colorful patterns to 'light up' the dark underpass, and to extend the aesthetic established on nearby 52nd Street with thematically coordinated designs. The theme of Trees has emerged from the artist's dialogue with the community. For further detail, please see the accompanying proposal.

Mr. Leon has a \$20,000 grant pending from the Open Circle Foundation in support of this project. If the project is approved, he will seek additional funding from community members and organizations to round out the budget.

If the proposal is approved by the PAAC, staff will prepare and submit a Resolution to Oakland City Council that accepts the proposed project and authorizes staff submittal of an application to Caltrans on the City's behalf.



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ADDITIONAL ISSUES

Public Art staff has identified the following additional issues to be resolved by the artist/sponsors.

- Prior to beginning work, the artist or a sponsor organization will be asked to provide proof of liability insurance, as well as any City and State permits that may be required to perform the work.
- The artist or a sponsoring organization will be required to enter into a written agreement with the City to assume responsibility for ongoing maintenance, cleaning, and restoration of the artwork, as well as provision for how and when the artwork will be removed or painted over at the end of its lifespan.
- The artist held a community meeting regarding this project in December 2012, and proposes a second community meeting for January 2013. Staff has asked him to provide documentation of the second meeting, including attendance and community comment on the proposed art.

RECOMMENDATION

Public Art staff recommends that the PAAC review and consider acceptance of this proposal. PAAC may determine that adequate information has been provided to support acceptance of the proposal on behalf of the City at this time, or may redirect the artist to provide additional information or to further develop the proposal concept. As noted, PAAC approval will trigger submittal of a Resolution to City Council to apply to Caltrans seeking acceptance of the project on its property. Of particular concern to staff is the establishment of responsibility for maintenance of the mural, as the City has no funds budgeted for this project or for future maintenance of the proposed artwork.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Huss, Cultural Arts Manager