

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 05-52

DATE: February 16, 2005

C.D. 1

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: **DOWNEY RECREATION CENTER: INSTALLATION OF MURAL INSIDE THE GYMNASIUM BUILDING**

* K. Chan kc J. Kolb _____
J. Combs _____ F. Mok _____
H. Fujita _____ K. Regan _____


General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve the installation of a mural inside the gymnasium building at Downey Recreation Center; and,
2. Authorize Department staff to issue a right-of-entry permit to the Xipe Totec Danzantes Aztecas dance group to perform the mural installation.

SUMMARY:

The Downey Recreation Center is located at 1772 North Spring Street, east of downtown Los Angeles. Xipe Totec Danzantes Aztecas, a community professional dance group, proposed the installation of a mural at Downey Recreation Center celebrating historic Aztec culture. Neighborhood Matching Funds, a community beautification program operated by the Board of Public Works, will fund the mural.

A community meeting was held on June 22, 2004. The meeting attendees discussed the mural, reviewed its design, and supported its installation at this site. The proposal was approved at the Cultural Affairs' Public Art Committee on April 14, 2004 and the Cultural Affairs Commission on August 5, 2004.

The artists, who are also members of the dance group, are Lazaro Arvizu, Citlali Arvizu, and Maricela Ponce. The mural will be located inside the gymnasium building on the south wall above the bleachers, the two pillars framing the wall, and the overhang joining the two pillars.

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The background wall mural will have the design of Tonatiuh (Sun). Tonatiuh represents life and the major eras of Aztec history. The two pillars framing the wall will have traditional Aztec geometric designs. The crossbeam type overhang joining the two pillars will carry the image of Quetzlcoatl (the feathered serpent). In Aztec legend, Quetzlcoatl is one of the four elements responsible for the creation of the universe. The mural will be painted with Nova Color Paints and a surface matte preparation for the walls will be used. Each artist will have a crew of volunteers to assist with the painting of the mural.

Anti-graffiti coating will be applied over the mural. The issues of preservation, repair, and major maintenance will be outlined in the Right-of-Entry permit and are the responsibility of the artists. They are aware of this and have indicated acceptance of these responsibilities. Removal of the mural in the future would require compliance with the provision of Civil Code Section 987.

The Councilperson of this District and Griffith/Metro Region staff support this project.

Staff has determined that the subject project will consist of interior alterations involving remodeling where there will be negligible or no expansion of use, and therefore, is exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to Article III, Section 1, Class 1 (1) of the City CEQA Guidelines.

Report was prepared by Camille Didier, City Planner, Planning and Development.