

Visual Arts Committee Report for March 19, 2014 Meeting

Patricia's Green Proposals

Commissioners:

For several years, the Hayes Valley Art Coalition (HVAC) has raised private funds to ensure an ongoing presence of sculpture in Patricia's Green. They are to be commended for their open arms support of public art as a way to enhance, activate and animate their community. The art work always serves as a focal point in the Green.

This year, they propose a sculpture by Mark Bough Sasaki, who has previously displayed his sculpture at the Green and is a resident of the neighborhood. The artist's intent is to create a sculpture that both commemorates and celebrates the community's victory in placing a referendum on the ballot and winning approval to have Caltrans demolish the Central Freeway which was damaged in the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake. As with all HVAC raises and supports all of their projects with private funds. The sculpture is to be fabricated from steel rods and chunks of concrete. I have concerns about the climbability of the sculpture, its structural stability and its weight on the concrete pad in the midst of the plaza. The artist feels certain that he can address these issues and will work with a structural engineer.

There are other options for temporary sculpture for your consideration as well. The Arts Commission has been fortunate to receive allocations from the city's Capital Planning Program that will enable us to program temporary art in Patricia's Green for the next few years. The allocations are modest and combining allocations from two fiscal years has been discussed as a strategy to reduce administrative costs and have a more realistic budget for the sculpture exhibition and its associated transportation, insurance, installation, deinstallation, engineering and signage costs. I am proposing alternative options for your consideration not knowing at this point whether the sculpture proposed by the HVAC will be approved.

After conducting curatorial research of existing works that would be ready for display, my short list includes two works that I would like to present for your consideration and possible approval by James Surls and Dana Albany respectfully. Images of the proposed sculptures are attached for your review. Installation of the work is also subject to the approval of the Recreation and Park Department. I have yet to present the work to the community which is also an important part of the process.

Lastly, looking ahead to the 10th anniversary of the creation of Patricia's Green and the very successful installation of the David Best Temple which ignited both the public's and elected officials' interest in temporary public art, we would like to propose a longer term installation by David Best of a new temple in Patricia's Green which would utilize a two year allocation of CIP funds in addition to funds raised by Black Rock Arts Foundation. Apparently, through unofficial word of mouth discussions and communications, members of the HVAC and the Hayes Valley Neighborhood Association are very excited about the

prospect of a temple by David Best to celebrate the 10th anniversary and rebirth of the Hayes Valley neighborhood. The artist is very interested in the possibility however, he is very busy with many commissions throughout the country. I recommend that the Commission consider awarding the artist a \$2,000 honorarium to create a site specific proposal for the Green, which if approved by the Arts Commission, Rec and Park Department and with the support of the community, would enable the Arts Commission to enter into an agreement with the artist for a June 2015 installation date.

















