

San Francisco Arts Commission

April 1, 2013

Staff Report

To: San Francisco Arts Commission

From: Susan Pontious, Civic Art Collection and Public Art Program Director

RE: Item #5(1), Visual Arts Committee Reports, approval of base design and text for bust of Adolph Sutro

Background: The bust of Adolph Sutro for installation in City Hall is a gift of the United Humanitarian Mission. Jonah Hendrickson is the artist and the design of the full clay model of the bust was approved previously by the Commission. However, still outstanding is the approval of the design of the sculpture base and the text that is intended to be engraved on the base.

The donor has planned installation of the bust around the 22nd or 23rd of April, and has already sent out invitations to a reception on April 29th.

Staff has no issue with the design of the base, but needs more time to document the historical accuracy of the text. Staff also feels that the text would benefit from some editing for style.

Recommendation: In the interests of time, approve the design and material of the base (sample granite to be presented at meeting) and delegate approval of the final text on the base to the Director of Cultural Affairs.

Donor's Proposed Text:

ADOLPH HEINRICH JOSEPH SUTRO

APRIL 29, 1830 - AUGUST 8, 1897

MAYOR OF SAN FRANCISCO

JANUARY 7, 1895 - JANUARY 3, 1897

ADOLPH SUTRO WAS ONE OF THE GREATEST

PHILANTHROPISTS IN THE UNITED STATES.

HE BUILT THE LARGEST SALTWATER BATHS

IN THE WORLD, SUTRO BATHS, AND

PLANTED A MILLION TREES, SUTRO FOREST.

HE DONATED LAND FOR THE SCHOOL OF

MEDICINE NOW UCSF.

HE WAS THE OWNER OF THE FIRST PRIVATE

LIBRARY IN THE UNITED STATES TO BE

OPENED TO THE PUBLIC.

PRESENTED AS A GIFT TO

THE CITY OF SAN FRANCISCO

BY THE UNITED HUMANITARIAN MISSION

WITH THE GENEROUS SUPPORT OF

THE NAHUM GUZIK FOUNDATION.

DEDICATED APRIL 29, 2013