



Date: July 7, 2014

To: Visual Arts Committee

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

RE: Staff Report regarding Axel Corporation proposal for temporary exhibition of 8 sculptures by Aitor Urdangurín in Civic Center Plaza (or alternate location in front of Opera House and Davies Symphony Hall.)

Staff was approached by Gwenda Joyce of Art Ambassadors, who is the American representative for the proposed exhibition of Spanish artist Aitor Urdangurín in Civic Center Plaza. Jill Manton and I met with Ms. Joyce and reviewed the proposal. Our findings are as follows:

- The size and installation requirements of the sculptures are such that they will have minimal impact on the site, and therefore could probably be safely installed without requiring further modifications to the site.
- We felt that the scale of these sculptures was not right for the Civic Center Plaza site. We felt that there was no intrinsic connection between the sculptures and the proposed site, or strong aesthetic merit to the sculptures that would argue for their installation in this location.

The sponsor has agreed to pay all costs associated with the exhibit, with the exception of the carnet (merchandise passport), which is a cost associated with the import of goods for exhibition and is based on the value of the goods. The carnet is like a bond or deposit that is returned when the goods are returned to the home country. However, the Arts Commission has no funding source available for even this temporary bond.