

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY COMMISSION

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-04

RESOLUTION ENDORSING THE PROPOSED BERNAL HEIGHTS BRANCH LIBRARY ART PROJECT AND FORWARDING THE ENDORSEMENT TO THE SAN FRANCISCO ARTS COMMISSION FOR APPROVAL

WHEREAS, The mural on the exterior of the Bernal Heights Branch Library ("Bernal Mural") was originated by former Bernal Heights Librarian Ruth McGinnis, community activist Kate Esposito and a volunteer neighborhood group; and,

WHEREAS, Artist Arch Williams designed three mural sections and the Library Commission and the Arts Commission approved the design and painting commenced in July 1980; and,

WHEREAS, Arch Williams worked with neighborhood youth and volunteer artists to complete the project in 1982; and

WHEREAS, The current Bernal Mural consists of three separate sections on three sides of Bernal Heights Branch Library – the south side on the back of the library, the east side facing Moultrie Street, and the front side on Cortland Street; and

WHEREAS, The Bernal Heights Branch Library interior renovation was completed in 2009 as part of the Branch Library Improvement Program ("BLIP"); and,

WHEREAS, a neighborhood mediation process was initiated by Supervisor David Campos in 2009 and lead by Bernal resident Beth Roy to resolve the controversy surrounding the final resolution of the existing mural; and,

WHEREAS, a group of neighborhood stakeholders, representing all sides of the controversy met for several months to discuss the existing mural and community issues of race, class, gentrification, culture and aesthetics; and

WHEREAS, a successful mediation process lead to consensus around creating new artwork that included the following agreements: (1) to update representation of today's Bernal community, (2) to honor elements of the existing mural that hold special meaning to Bernal residents, and (3) to create new artwork that harmonized with the architectural features of the building; and,

WHEREAS, the Library Commission supports and appreciates the community mediation process and community engagement to resolve the matter regarding the exterior of the Bernal Heights Branch Library; and,

WHEREAS, a nine person committee composed of residents, business owners, and community members selected an artist team – Colette Crutcher, Precita Eyes Muralists, and Reuben Rude to work collaboratively on a design; and,

WHEREAS, the design will be commissioned in two phases with the Cortland and Moultrie Street sides to be completed as early as fall 2011; and

WHEREAS, on August 20, 2009, the Library Commission approved Resolution No. 2009-04 urging the Arts Commission to approve the restoration of the Bernal Mural on the Cortland Street side of the Bernal Heights Branch Library only, and paint over the mural sections on the east and south sides of the library; and

WHEREAS, the Library Commission endorses the Bernal Artwork (see attached) and understands that final approval on designs and locations of all artwork on public structures rests with the Arts Commission, as set forth in Charter Section 5.103; and,

WHEREAS, the Library Commission is not obligated to incur costs associated with ongoing maintenance of the Bernal Art Work;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Library Commission endorses the Bernal Heights Branch Library Artwork Project and forwards its endorsement to the San Francisco Arts Commission for approval.

Approved on: July 21, 2011.

By a vote of: 5-0

Ayes: Breyer, Gomez, Munson, Nguyen and Ono

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sue Blackman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sue Blackman

Library Commission Secretary

Attachment: Bernal Library Artwork



September 15 , 2010

To Whom it May Concern,

The Bernal Business Alliance is comprised of members who have active businesses in the Bernal Heights neighborhood. There are over 100 members.

We are writing this letter in strong support of the Bernal Library Art Project. The Bernal Heights Library is a central building in our neighborhood and along Cortland Avenue, our merchant corridor. The development of this artwork project has been a major event in the Bernal Heights community and the Bernal Business Alliance will be an on-going partner in the fundraising and implementation of the project. The BBA is also committed to assist with the needed care and on-going maintenance, including graffiti abatement, of the artwork once it is completed.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this important community artwork project. If you have any questions, please contact Lynn Pearce or Darcy Lee at www.bernalbusiness.org.

Sincerely,

Darcy Lee

Member, Board of Supervisors
District 9



City and County of San Francisco

DAVID CAMPOS

San Francisco Art Commission
401 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

March 14, 2012

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing this letter to express my support for the new artwork for the front façade and Moultrie side of the Bernal Heights branch library.

As many of you know, the Bernal Heights community has gone through an extensive process to mediate the disagreements around the existing mural and collaborate in order to reach a decision regarding the new artwork. As the District supervisor, I have participated and closely followed the process that formed the Bernal Library Art Project (BLAP) taskforce, the volunteer committee that has devoted countless hours to see this project materialize. The planned artwork is the result of a community comprise that resulted from broad input, dialogue and ultimately consensus. This new artwork exemplifies the incredible commitment of so many neighborhood residents who worked hard to understand one another despite diverse opinions.

After years of working towards this goal, I look forward to the approval of the Arts Commission and ultimately the creation of the artwork.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Campos".

David Campos