

## **EXPLANATORY DOCUMENT: VISUAL ARTS COMMITTEE MEETING: January 20, 2021**

Chinese New Year Celebration Temporary Art Installations: Discussion and possible motion to approve the temporary installation from February 1, 2021 to March 15, 2021 of three ox sculptures sponsored by the San Francisco Chinese Chamber in honor of the Year of the Ox at Portsmouth Square, Union Square and Civic Center Plaza, the forms of which were designed by Lacey Bryant and the surfaces designed and painted by Brian Travis, Deyi Zhao, Monique Zhang all of whom are artists working with Parade Guys.

### **Background**

Due to COVID, this year's Chinese New Year's Parade has been cancelled. In order to help celebrate the New Year, the SF Chinese Chamber is proposing to install a series of Ox sculptures throughout San Francisco to commemorate the Year of the Ox. The proposal is for the sculptures to be placed in Portsmouth Square, Union Square, and Civic Center Plaza. The sculptures will each be separately designed and festively painted. Each sculpture will weigh about 400 pounds, including the sand base. Each sculpture will be 4.5' tall, 3-4' wide, and 6' long.

The **Union Square Ox Sculpture** is sponsored by Cruise (see **Exhibit B**) and will be painted by artist Brian Travis Williams. Brian Travis Williams is a professional visual artist whose medium includes commercial graphic design, illustration and has had success painting pieces in a figurative and abstract expressionist style. He currently works as the Assistant Production Designer at The Parade Guys, a parade float and fabrication company in San Francisco. Every year Brian assists with The Chinese New Year parade and has taken part in the parade as a float supervisor making sure the floats are in good working order for the event. For 2021 Brian is using his skills to design and paint the look of a series of Ox sculptures for this season's Lunar New Year celebrations.

The **Portsmouth Square Ox Sculpture** is sponsored by Comcast (see **Exhibit C**) and will be painted by artist Deyi (Robin) Zhao. Deyi (Robin) Zhao was born in Jilin, China, and came to the US when she was 9 years old. Her grandmother, Yumei Hou, worked as the main carver for the San Francisco Chinese New Year statues and her father worked building floats. Robin grew up helping paint and decorate the floats and loved seeing all the objects for the floats come together piece-by-piece. This year, she enjoyed the opportunity to design and paint her own Ox and is excited to see it as a public art piece displayed in the city. Being surrounded by both traditional art forms and new digital media, Robin has developed a keen eye for art and design. In addition to her years of working on Parade Floats, at the young age of 19 she has also taught various arts and crafts classes to children and adults, interned at YouTube, and is now in her first year of college at the California College of the Arts.

The **Civic Center Plaza Ox Sculpture** is sponsored by AARP (see **Exhibit D**) and will be painted by artist Monique Zhang. Left to fend for herself at the age of 20 with limited experiences and resources, Monique Zhang departed from her motherland of Taiwan. She has made and marked her career in fashion in the last two decades. Monique had created her career around making

tasteful choices among women of influence. By selecting the colors and fabric to treat the eyes to the heart, her playful mood and creativity have been adored by her new following for events past to present. In addition to being a skilled designer, motivational teacher, and mentor to many, Monique is also an accomplished textile collector. She has lived and traveled around the world for her quest and love for cultures and the arts.

The sculptures have been engineered to ensure that they will not tip over and can support the weight of one person if they climbed on it. The project sponsor is providing liability insurance covering the city in an amount of 1M general liability and a 5M excess liability coverage which has been reviewed by the City Risk Manager.



London N. Breed, Mayor  
Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

## Exhibit A to Staff Report

### Ox Sculpture Engineering Details Letter



KA Lau Construction, Inc.  
LIC#823195  
(415) 812-4776

January 2, 2021

Jill Manton  
Director, Public Art Trust and Special Initiatives  
San Francisco Arts Commission  
401 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 325  
San Francisco, CA 94102

RE: San Francisco Chinese Chamber of Commerce - Year of the Ox 2021- Ox Sculpture

Dear Ms. Jill Manton:

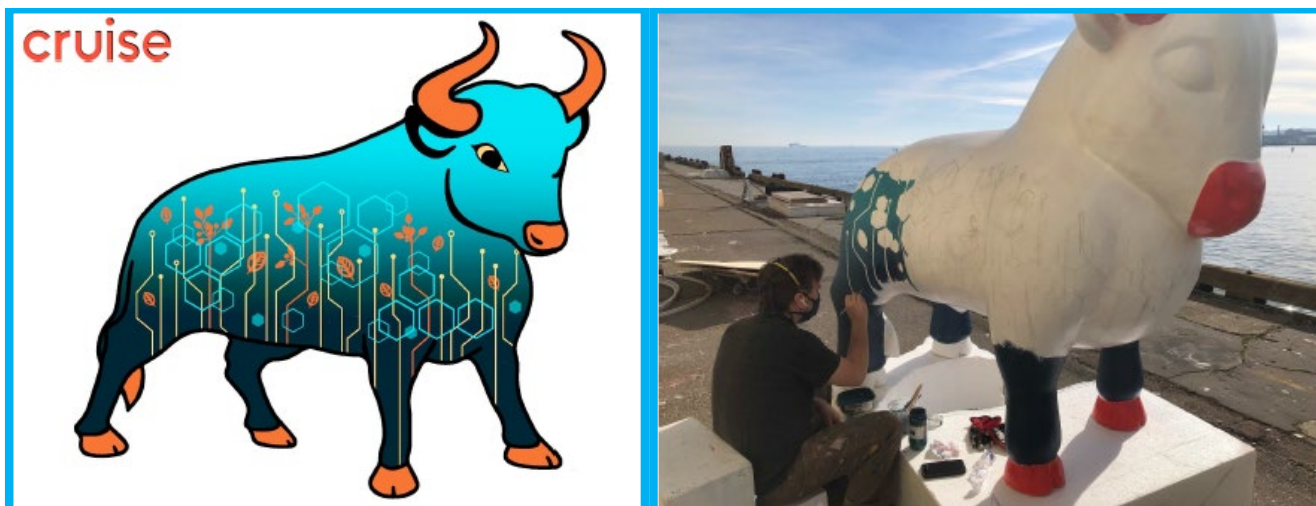
Per our discussion, the Year of the Ox 2021 Ox Sculptures that are built by our builder, Ms. Stephanie Mufson, are made with Geof foam (<https://www.geof foam.com/>) and 2 coats of fiberglass. The material has a compressive resistance of 320psf and a density of 0.70 lb/ft<sup>3</sup>. With Safety Factor, the sculpture will be adequate to take 400lb uniform loads on the back of the ox. Please let me know if you have any questions,

Sincerely,



Tony Lau, PE  
415-812-4776

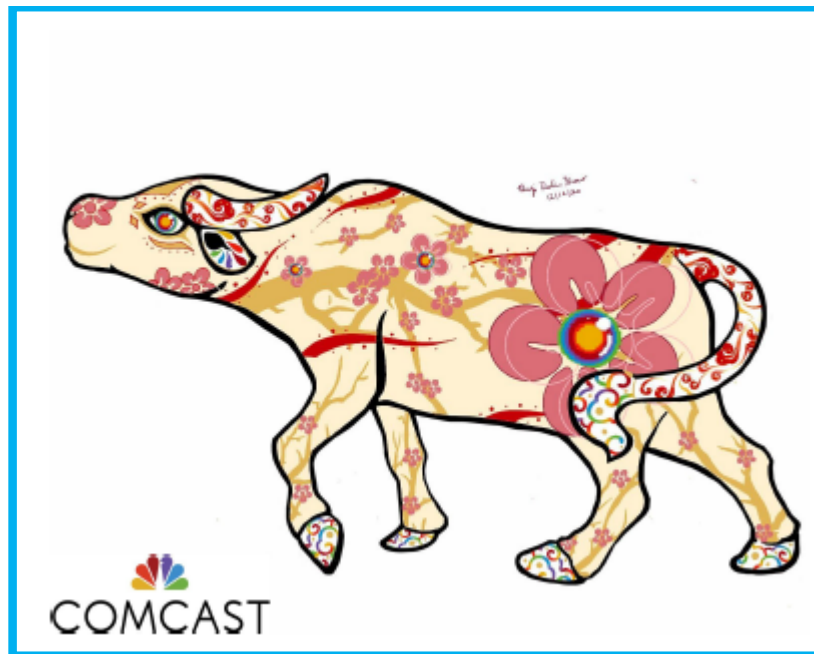
## Exhibit B to Staff Report Union Square Ox Sculpture



### Cruise Connects the Community

The Chinese New Year celebrations are about new beginnings. It's a time when families get together, pay respects to their ancestors and elders, and feast. Each year, millions of people around the world travel back to their hometowns to celebrate this occasion and reunite with their loved ones. This resonated with Cruise and they wanted to bring that theme to life with *The Modern Tech Bull*. The *Modern Tech Bull* merges the idea of family reunion with technology. The yellow lines represent transportation from one place to another, connecting us to our families and friends. The artist's use of the blue gradient represents the coming of spring for the new year, as well as progress and electricity. The hexagon shape is utilized to symbolize technology and advancement. While the orange foliage ties into sustainability and Cruise's zero-emission vehicles. Cruise's mission is to build the world's most advanced autonomous vehicles (AVs) to safely connect people to the places, things, and experiences they care about. Committed to being a trusted community partner, Cruise has selected On Lok, a community-based organization, working to improve policy and innovate senior services, to be the recipient of the proceeds of this Ox.

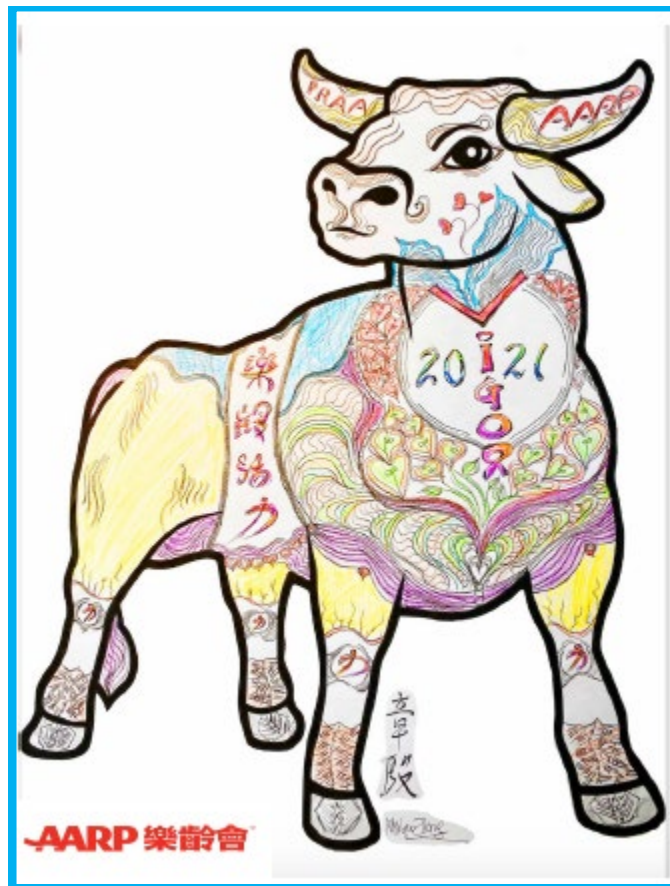
**Exhibit C to Staff Report**  
**Portsmouth Square Ox Sculpture**



**Comcast Steps with Us into the New Year**

Out with the old and in with the new. The Chinese New Year celebrates and welcomes the coming of spring with hope and optimism. As we leave the Year of the Rat behind us, we are stepping into this new year with a positive outlook and a clear mindset for a fresh start and Comcast is proud to be walking alongside us on this journey into the Year of the Ox. The New Hope ox encompasses themes of spring, strength, and peace. The ox's position is in stride, signifying progress and forward movement into the new and unknown with its futuristic eyes on the horizon. The Chinese plum blossom branches and flowers featured throughout the design represent perseverance, strength, and bravery. Red fire strips fuel the flames of success in business and life, while the Chinese clouds signify luck and peace. Comcast is passionate about giving back to the Chinese community in San Francisco and has chosen to support the Chinatown Youth Center to be the recipient of the proceeds of this Ox.

**Exhibit D to Staff Report**  
**Civic Center Plaza Ox Sculpture**



**AARP Shares the Love**

Family reunion is the epitome of the Chinese New Year celebration. It's a time when families get together to honor the old and welcome the new. Traditions big and small carried out and passed on from generation to generation, keeping all of us closer together. Although this year will look different it doesn't have to feel different. AARP wanted to reflect this message in their xOXo Ox, reminding us all to send the love and share the traditions in this new year. The xOXo Ox represents the vigor and vitality of the elders. In the position of strength, the Ox stands proud in colorful textures to represent the silk fabrics of the traditional Chinese attire. The various colors are overlapping to symbolize the coming together of family. The intricate front design signifies the wisdom of the ancestors and the older generation. As the design progresses back, the colors and textures are simpler to represent the younger generation. The heart motif throughout symbolizes shared roots, history, love, and family connections. AARP is committed to issues affecting those over the age of 50. To continue this work, they have chosen Self-Help for the Elderly, a non-profit organization that promotes the independence, well-being, and dignity for older adults through culturally aligned services, with the proceeds of this Ox.