



Agenda Item #: \_\_\_\_\_

# Staff Report

## City of Manhattan Beach

**TO:** Honorable Mayor Ward and Members of the City Council

**THROUGH:** Richard Thompson, Interim City Manager

**FROM:** Richard Gill, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Juanita Purner, Cultural Arts Manager

**DATE:** May 18, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Approval of Architectural Fees from the Public Art Trust for New Bench Designs for the Strand Alcove/Bench Donor Program

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the architectural fees for new bench designs for the Strand Alcove/Bench Donor Program

### **FISCAL IMPLICATION:**

There are no fiscal implications on the general fund associated with the recommended action. A stipend of \$15,000 is requested to pay five architects \$3,000 each for new designs. The Art Trust Fund balance is \$177,272.37.

### **BACKGROUND:**

At the June 19, 2007 City Council meeting, Council approved the purchase of six artistic benches from artist/designer Stacy Dukes for the Strand Alcove/Bench Improvement project for \$75,000. There were six installation sites designated for the benches: 11<sup>th</sup> Street; Shell Street; 39<sup>th</sup> Street; 32<sup>nd</sup> Street; Marine Avenue and 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. The Cultural Arts Commission created a donor brochure which offers program guidelines and it is available on the City's website or it can be mailed upon request.

There are a total of nine benches installed on the Strand which include three benches recently installed at 19<sup>th</sup> Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Street and 30<sup>th</sup> Street. In addition, there are donors on a waiting list who have reserved an alcove.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Since the program's inception in 2007, only one bench design has been developed and approved by the Cultural Arts Commission and City Council. Staff and potential donors have had a difficult time attracting artists and architects to develop more bench designs. The Commission would like to address the need for additional designs through an invitational process where three to five architects will be asked to submit a minimum of three bench designs. The Commission will review and select designs that meet the program's design criteria with the final recommendations

submitted to City Council for approval.

A new edition of the Strand Alcove Bench guidelines is planned and will incorporate the new bench designs.

**CONCLUSION:**

Staff recommends that City Council approve the request for architectural fees of \$15,000 from the Art Trust Fund for new Strand Alcove Bench designs. Once the Cultural Arts Commission reviews the bench designs and finalizes their selection, a recommendation to City Council will be submitted.