




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:** June 1, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Approval for a Direct Invitation Process for the Second Sculpture Garden; Three-Month Extension of the Current Installation; and Appropriate \$4,375 from the Public Art Trust Fund for the Artists Stipend

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### RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the City Council approve the implementation of a Direct Invitation Process for the Sculpture Garden Program's second installation, 2010-2011; and a three-month extension of the current installation and appropriate \$4,375 from the Public Art Trust Fund.

### FISCAL IMPLICATION:

There are no fiscal implications on the general fund associated with the recommended action. The original Sculpture Garden Agreement ends on June 30, 2010; by extending the agreement to September, new sculptures would then be available. The five artists would receive a prorated stipend of \$625 each; the total cost is \$4,375. In December 2009, Council approved a \$100,000 allotment from the Public Art Trust Fund for the Sculpture Garden Program (the balance minus stipend is \$95,625).

### BACKGROUND:

As part of the City's 2002 Work Plan, Council directed the Cultural Arts Commission to begin research and create a proposal for an Outdoor Sculpture Garden. The artworks contained in the Garden would rotate on an annual or semi-annual basis.

The Sculpture Garden's inaugural installation took place in June 2009 with seven sculptures exhibited at three sites: the Civic Plaza, Veteran's Memorial Parkway and the Metlox Plaza. The Commission chose sculptures that were part of the San Diego Port Authority's Urban Tree Project. The Commission made their selections after numerous visits to San Diego where they reviewed the sculptures, maquettes and they held conversations with the project curator and with the artists.

### DISCUSSION:

If approved, the Commission will implement the direct invitation process; whereby, selected artists would submit proposals for the Sculpture Garden's second installation. The artists would be

required to submit a 3-D model in 30 days.

The theme for the project is *Manhattan Beach's Sense of Place*. A community exists within a location and encompasses people, geography, buildings, parks and collective stories. Manhattan Beach neighborhoods are distinct: Sand Section, Hill Section, Tree Section, Gas Light Section; Manhattan Heights, the Village; the Poet's Section; East Manhattan Beach, Liberty Village, and El Porto.

The Commission will identify and recommend sculptures that reflect distinct qualities about the City such as natural surroundings or neighborhood identity. Artists will be asked to consider one area as a source of inspiration; the words like Sand, Hill, Village, Ocean, Heights, Dune, etc could be explored and may prompt a concept, a poetic vision or a symbol that culminates in a sculpture.

After the Commission has reviewed the 3-D models, selections for the program's second installation will be recommended to City Council for approval.

**CONCLUSION:**

Staff recommends that City Council approve the Sculpture Garden program's direct invitation process which is directed toward identifying sculptures for the program's second installation; and approve the three-month extension of the current installation and the appropriation of \$4,375 from the Public Art Trust Fund.