



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:** September 7, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Consideration of the Cultural Arts Commission's Recommendation for Eight Sculptures for the 2010 Sculpture Garden

---

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that City Council approve Cultural Arts Commission's recommendation for eight sculptures for the 2010 Sculpture Garden.

### **FISCAL IMPLICATION:**

There are no fiscal implications on the general fund associated with the recommended action. The project will be supported through the Public Art Trust Fund. In December 2009, Council approved \$100,000 allotment from Public Art Trust Fund (Resolution #6237) for future Sculpture Gardens. If approved, the 2010 show will cost \$20,000 leaving a balance of \$60,635. The Public Art Trust account balance is \$201,821.30.

### **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 basis.

The Sculpture Garden 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 included in the San Diego Port Authority's Urban Tree Project. Many positive responses were received from the community members who expressed appreciation for the addition of these art works in the civic center.

### **DISCUSSION**

The Commission embraced the search for new sculptures for the 2010 installation; these works addressed a theme that reflects a sense-of-place theme. The Commission intended to identify and recommend sculptures that reflect distinct qualities about the City such as natural surroundings or neighborhood identity. Artists were asked to consider one neighborhood as a source of inspiration; the words like Sand, Hill, Tree, Village, Ocean, Heights, Dune, Poets, etc. offered concepts, poetic visions or ideas that culminate in a sculpture.

Artists received an invitation to submit proposals for the City’s rotating one-year exhibition. The Commission’s Sculpture Garden selections occurred over numerous meetings before the eight finalists were chosen from the twelve semi-finalists. At the August 10<sup>th</sup> Commission meeting, each commissioner received a ballot sheet listing the twelve artists under consideration for the 2010 program. Votes were taken with the final selections as follows:

Attachment A includes the images of each sculpture with a picture of the proposed installation site.

1. Kent Kraber – *Imagine if there were Dragons* Location – Civic Plaza  
This tall shimmering sculpture can evoke childhood memories based on mythic stories, painting, and fantasy. A 10’ dragon draws attention and compels the child in every person to pause and wonder.

2. Frank Mando - *Pele (Fire Goddess)* Location – Civic Plaza  
The sculpture represents a female born out of the earth’s elements; her energy is both beneficial and destructive. The 10’ tall sculpture is composed of red enameled metal and aluminum.

3. Maria De Castro - *The Pier/Osprey* Location - Civic Plaza  
A female figure is featured with an osprey head standing atop a pier piling; in her hands is a fish native to California waters. Wearing a kelp skirt and a headdress that represents the sun, she is made from ceramic, metal, wood and glass mosaic pieces.

4. Alison Wright – *Oracle Bones* Location – Veteran’s Parkway  
The sculpture integrates structural systems similar to a pier, a boat and the body of a whale; all of which have a relationship to the ocean. The bones will be interconnected into a rib cage approximately 10’ wide; bones are made from foam surfboard scraps. The bones serve as modern day oracles; included are inscriptions on the bones with tide tables and wave information from surf websites. The sculpture could be viewed an object discovered in an archeological dig.

5. David Thefeld - *On Board* Location - Metlox – 13<sup>th</sup> Street  
The spotted frogs frolic on a grey and ivory game board that swirls toward the sky; the piece evokes a playful vision. The sculpture is made from steel, foam and concrete. This 12’ kinetic art piece can be spun by turning the lavender wheel at the base.

6. Sonia Chhabra Patel – *The Pearl* Location – Civic Plaza  
This gleaming stainless steel sculpture is composted an abstract shell; the suspended shell holds hold a beautiful “Pearl.” The art work evokes an abstract vision of a rare and beautiful gift created in the sea.

7. Alex Weinstein - *Untitled (wave swell series)* Location - Metlox  
This 4’x4’ object serves as a physical cross section of the ocean surface in a geometric form. The piece would be viewed as a dislocated still life; a slab of water removed from the sea and brought to land. It reflects the surf culture that is at the core of this City. The material is polyester resin, fiberglass and urethane.

8. Amos Robinson – *Sweet Music*

Location – Civic Plaza

The wind sets this kinetic sculpture into motion and the sun dances off its polished surfaces. On bended knee, the musician serenades his graceful partner who responds with joyous dance. The guitarists, the dancer and the parasol spin independently, creating an ever changing dance.

The past year's Sculpture Garden exhibited seven sculptures in the Civic Plaza, Veteran's Parkway and at Metlox; this year we are asking approval for eight sculptures. The sculpture by Alex Weinstein will be installed at Metlox and the other seven sculptures will use the pot/pole bases.

The Commission plans to reach out to the community in two ways: 1) by hosting a booth at the 2010 Home Town Fair to inform those attending the event about the Cultural Arts Division's public art programs; 2) the Commissions intends on coordinating community art and writing workshops that take inspiration from the sculptures. In this way, children and adults will produce drawing and/or stories based on the sculpture they select. Posting the finished products from the workshops on the City website will cultivate public interest and participation.

If approved, Staff will secure the artist's contracts and public works can install the sculptures by October 18 and 19.

**CONCLUSION:**

Staff recommends that City Council consider and approve the eight sculptures for the 2010 Sculpture Garden program.

**Attachments:**

- A. Sculpture images and proposed installation sites
- B. Cultural Arts Commission Meeting Minutes, August 10, 2010