

February 5, 2013
Community Services

TITLE: APPROVE THE LOCATION OF THE PUBLIC ARTWORK, "JOYFUL EMPOWERMENT" AT THE MUSEUM ON MAIN

SUMMARY

Bob and Marilyn Athenour have contacted the City of Pleasanton regarding donating a piece of Public Art through the Harrington Art Partnership. The Athenours feel passionate about contributing "Joyful Empowerment" to the City's Public Art collection and have suggested a possible location for the City Council's review and consideration. Their recommended location is on the property of the Museum on Main located at 603 Main Street in Pleasanton.

CIVIC ARTS COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council approve the location of the public artwork, "*Joyful Empowerment*" at the Museum on Main.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council approve the location of the public artwork, "*Joyful Empowerment*" at the Museum on Main.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

The artwork "*Joyful Empowerment*," which is valued at \$7,500, has been donated to the City by Bob and Marilyn Athenour. Pursuant to the terms of the Harrington Art Partnership, it is the City's responsibility to coordinate and pay for the installation of the public artwork. The cost of installing the piece is estimated to be \$2,000 and will be funded through the Public Art Acquisition Fund #038-900-4385.

BACKGROUND

Harrington Public Art Acquisition Plan

On December 29, 2009, Nancy and Gary Harrington met with Civic Arts staff to present their idea for a 10-year plan to add to Pleasanton's public art collection by the acquisition or commission of several sculptures – including two (2) murals.

Their goal was to raise financial support through a process of collaboration with local businesses, to fully fund each sculpture and/or mural. As part of the funding campaign, they are willing to match any donation of \$3,500 or more until sufficient funding for a particular sculpture or mural has been achieved.

In June 2010, the Plan was presented to the Civic Arts Commission for an initial, preliminary review. The Commission approved the Plan and requested that it be presented to the Parks and Recreation Commission, as well as other interested committees and agencies. Over the next few months, the Plan was presented and approved by both the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Economic Vitality Advisory Committee. Several members expressed the hope that Public Art could eventually extend from the Downtown into the Hacienda Business Park.

On December 7, 2010, the plan was presented to the City Council. The City Council approved the plan and since that time the Harringtons along with multiple other donors have donated a total of eight (8) pieces to the Public Art Collection.

Harrington Public Art Acquisition Process

At the beginning of the process, the Harringtons first identify potential public art pieces they are interested in donating to the City's Public Art collection and then notify City staff. Together with City staff they research possible locations and then forward the piece to the Public Art Selection Subcommittee (PASS) for their review and consideration.

The PASS committee is comprised of members of Community Services and Community Development staff, the Pleasanton Downtown Association, the Civic Arts Commission, and the Park and Recreation Commission. The PASS committee reviews the piece for artistic merit, considers its long term maintenance needs and whether the piece will add to the City's existing public art collection. If the PASS committee approves the piece, the item is forwarded to the Civic Arts Commission for their review and consideration. If the Civic Arts Commission approves the selection, the item is then presented to the City Council for its final review.

Once a piece has been approved by the City Council, the Harringtons begin the fundraising process. After sufficient funding has been raised to acquire the piece, the City then makes arrangements with the vendor to purchase the piece. After the piece has been acquired, the proposed location is presented to the Civic Arts Commission and City Council for final review. If the proposed location includes a City recreation facility or park, the location must also be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation

Commission. Once the location has been approved, City staff arranges for the delivery and installation of the piece.

To date, Nancy and Gary Harrington and/or their co-donors have acquired and donated eight (8) sculptures to the City: "The Firehouse Crystal Bell," by artist Jack Storms, located inside the Firehouse Arts Center lobby; "Spiral Motion III," by artist Jon Seeman, located southeast of the Firehouse Arts Center building; "Joyful Play," by artist Dominic Benhura, installed in front of Chase Bank on Main Street; "Dancers," by artist Greg Hawthorne, installed on the grounds on the east side of the Firehouse Arts Center building, "Special Friends," by artist Carol Dunford-Jackman, installed on Main Street at Civic Park, "Eternity," by artist James Hunolt, installed at the Firehouse Arts Center, "Comet" by artist Max DeMoss, installed at the Firehouse Arts Center and "Windsong" by Greg Hawthorne, installed at the northern end of Centennial Park adjacent to the Pleasanton Senior Center.

DISCUSSION

At its regular meeting on August 21, 2012, the City Council reviewed and approved the piece Joyful Empowerment for addition to the City's Public Art collection. Following the City Council's approval, the proposed location was forwarded to the PASS committee and the Civic Arts Commission for their review and consideration.

On December 13, 2012, the PASS committee met to review and consider the locations and installation of the piece. After reviewing several locations, the PASS committee recommended that the piece be placed in front of the Museum on Main at 603 Main Street, Pleasanton. More specifically, the piece will be placed close to the front of the buildings' exterior, facing Main Street. On January 7, 2013, the Civic Arts Commission approved the proposed location for "Joyful Empowerment" at the Museum on Main.

City staff has evaluated the site and feel that the location at the Museum on Main provides high levels of visibility to the public. Once approved, the piece will be mounted on a 2' tall black granite pedestal, which then will be installed on a concrete pad. City staff along with the Athenours, believe that the proposed location and installation details will help showcase this piece.

Submitted by:



Susan Andrade-Wax
Community Services Director

Fiscal Review:



Emily Wagner
Director of Finance

Approved by:



Nelson Fialho
City Manager

Attachments:

1. Artistic rendition of "Joyful Empowerment" at Museum on Main
2. Picture of "Joyful Empowerment" with Artist's Biography







Bronze 40 x 17 x 16 (Put on granite pedestal) Ed. of 30 (Wt. 75 lbs.)

Angela De la Vega - JOYFUL EMPOWERMENT

There is so much beauty to see in every given moment. I wish desperately that I could sculpt it all, like a camera capturing consecutive moments in time, separated only by seconds. For each sculpture, I listen to memory—a vision that does not fade, as it must come into being in all of its fullness. I always work with a model for this vision, a model that can represent a multiplicity of humanity, glowing with spirit and shaping light and shadows over form. I work ardently at a torrid pace, to make sure that nothing evades my grasp of what I see. As the sculpture develops, I can slow down and focus on details such as physical features of the subject. This is when I hope to focus on transferring the intensity of the subject sculpting a body that listens as a live face does. The addition of details such as clothing or accompanying objects within a sculpture are based on hours of research into culture history and photographs in order to achieve authenticity and realism.