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Executive Director

May 21, 2019

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

23 May 21, 2019

CELIA ZAVALA
EXECUTIVE OFFICER

**RECOMMENDATION TO DEACCESSION THE
FORMER FLORENCE LIBRARY CIVIC ARTWORK
(ALL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

The Arts Commission recommends approval to deaccession a County-owned artwork formerly located at the former County library in the City of Los Angeles.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find regarding CEQA that the proposed actions are exempt for the reasons stated in this Board letter and the record.
2. Deaccession the artwork "Faces of the Americas" by Ernesto de la Loza, created for the Florence Library in 2010, from the County Civic Art Collection.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

County Civic Artwork Deaccession

On July 10, 2018, the Board adopted a resolution approving the site acquisition, construction and development of Florence Apartments located at 1600-1616 East Florence Avenues in unincorporated Florence-Firestone. The proposed artwork deaccession is located at the former Florence Library located at 1610 Florence Avenue, Los Angeles, CA 90001 which is on the site of the new development and is within the jurisdictional boundaries for demolition.

The artwork was commissioned in 2010 as a temporary work by California artist Ernesto de la Loza. The artwork is 150 feet (length) x 8 feet (height) and was located on east and west wall of the library building.

In 2004, the Board approved the Civic Art Policy for the County, which authorized the Arts Commission to establish procedures to implement the Civic Art Policy. Under existing Civic Arts Procedures, adopted by the Arts Commission in 2009, the County retains the right to deaccession any civic art on County property if the site for the artwork will be destroyed or altered in a significant way.

As dictated in the approved Civic Art Procedures, Arts Commission staff consulted County Counsel and sent written notice by registered mail to artist Ernesto de la Loza on January 18, 2019. The letter informed the artist of the artwork deaccession from the County's Civic Art Collection due to the demolition of the Florence Library building. The Civic Art Procedures dictate several alternate options when an artwork is deaccessioned from the County Collection, including but not limited to: advertising it for sale, donating it to another government agency, municipality, museum or nonprofit organization or destroying it if it is tied to a site scheduled for demolition. Given that the County could not guarantee the artwork could be removed from the building without damage and given the artist accepted liability in the process of removing the mural, the Arts Commission is returning the artwork to the artist if the artwork is removed successfully in part or in whole. Accordingly, the artwork was successfully removed by the artist on March 29, 2019.

Upon your Board's approval, the artwork will be deaccessioned from the County Civic Art collection and returned to artist Ernesto de la Loza.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions are consistent with the Countywide Strategic Plan Goal II, which directs that our increasingly dynamic, and complex environment, challenges our collective abilities to respond to public needs and expectations. We want to be an innovative, flexible, effective, and transparent partner focused on advancing the common good.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Arts Commission paid \$8,500 to professionally photo document the artwork before removal for the County Civic Art Collection archives and for the professional removal of the artwork. Second District approved use of Second District Civic Art Pooled Funds.

Returning the artwork to the artist will relieve the County of future maintenance costs, storage costs, and liability of the artwork.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with the Board's Civic Art Policy, on October 1, 2010, artist Ernesto de la Loza was commissioned to make an artwork for Florence Library. At that time, the artist was made aware of the eventual demolition of the building. Consequently, the artist installed the artwork in a manner to facilitate its removal at a later time. (See Enclosure A)

As a result of the Board's resolution for Florence Multifamily Housing adopted on July 10, 2018 and in accordance with the Civic Art Procedures and the County's Agreement No. 9023 with Ernesto de la Loza dated January 13, 2010, the Arts Commission sent a registered letter on January 18, 2019 to the artist informing the artist of the deaccession of the artwork due to the demolition of the Florence Library.

On March 29, 2019, the civic artwork "Faces of the Americas" by Ernesto de la Loza was removed from the Florence Library.

On April 8, 2019, the Arts Commission approved deaccession of the civic artwork "Faces of the Americas" by Ernesto de la Loza from the Civic Art Collection and recommends your Board approves deaccession of the artwork.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

The recommended actions are categorically exempt from California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15061(b)(3) of the CEQA Guidelines because it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the actions will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

The deaccession and donation relieves the County of future maintenance costs, storage costs, and liability of the artwork.

CONCLUSION

It is requested that the Executive Office, Board of Supervisors, return the adopted, stamped Board letter to the Arts Commission, Civic Art at 1055 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 800, Los Angeles CA 9001.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Kristin Sakoda".

Kristin Sakoda,
Executive Director

Enclosures

cc: Executive Office, Board of Supervisors
County Counsel
Public Library

ENCLOSURE A

ERNESTO de la LOZA
909 1/2 Glendale Blvd. Echo Park, CA 90026
323-717-8903 ernestodelaloza@hotmail.com

Mural Removal and Storage

1) Maintenance of entire mural

- Pressurized water rinse
- Clean with cloth and de-grease with Simple Green – remove dust, grime & dirt thoroughly
- Let dry thoroughly

2) Separate mural from wall and roll onto 10 extension posts – Experienced artist or consultant recommended

- Isolate each individual panel and precision cut with box cutter knife
- Saturate each individual panel with warm water (if necessary)
- Loosen panel vertical edge with pounding technique (pounding & pulling from wall) taking extreme caution to not disturb any pigment
- Align vertical edge of panel and staple EVENLY to 6' wooden extension post
- Pound and pull panel while simultaneously rolling the mural onto the extension post – remove any debris or stucco adhering to backside of panel
- Tools: Burnishers, flat putty knives (plastic or metal) for stubborn areas

3) Storage

- Individually package each roll with clean plastic sheeting
- Store in cool dry climate