

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR KATHRYN BARGER

December 5, 2023

Sole Source with Artist Ian White at Charles White Park

Charles White Park is located at 77 Mountain View Street and spans five acres in the unincorporated community of Altadena. The park was built in 1980 and named after Charles Wilbert White, Jr. (April 2, 1918 – October 3, 1979), a pivotal African American artist who was a resident of Altadena in his later years.

White was known for highlighting African American related subjects in paintings, drawings, lithographs, and murals. His lifelong commitment to chronicling the triumphs and struggles of his community cemented him as one of the most well-known artists in African American art history. Charles White influenced a generation of artists while teaching at Dillard University, George Washington Carver School in New York, and the Otis Art Institute in Los Angeles, where he taught from 1965 to 1979. Following his passing, White's work has been included in the permanent collections of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art, the Art Institute of Chicago, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Whitney Museum of American Art, the National Gallery of Art, the Newark Museum, and the Santa Barbara Museum of Art. In 2018, the centenary year of his birth, the first major retrospective exhibition of his work was organized by the Art Institute of Chicago and the Museum of Modern Art.

White's incredible impact has been carried on by his family. Ian White, Charles White's son, is a Los Angeles-based artist and teacher whose visual practice includes narrative murals and abstract sculptures. Ian is greatly influenced by his father and the community of artists, musicians, actors, and activists who surrounded him as a child. Ian White is responsible for the archive of Charles White and is committed to honoring his father's legacy as one of the most celebrated and influential African American artists of the 20th century.

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MOTION

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In 2004, the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors adopted the County's first Civic Art Policy, allocating one percent of design and construction costs of new County capital projects to a Civic Art Special Fund to create civic artworks. The County's Civic Art Policy is managed by the Department of Arts and Culture's Civic Art Division to commission socially engaged civic artworks, support conservation efforts, and manage artistic and cultural programs and services throughout the unincorporated areas of Los Angeles County in all five supervisorial districts.

The Department of Arts and Culture is working closely with the Department of Parks and Recreation to incorporate civic art into an upcoming renovation of Charles White Park to honor the park's namesake. It would be fitting to pay homage to Charles White's meaningful legacy with an artwork inspired by his art and created by his son.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Department of Arts and Culture to enter into a Sole Source Agreement with artist Ian White, in an amount not to exceed \$100,000, with funding from the Fifth District Civic Art Pooled Funds, to deliver civic art at Charles White Park celebrating the legacy of Charles White.

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