

KRISTIN SAKODA, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES DEPARTMENT OF ARTS AND CULTURE

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ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

38 May 21, 2024

' JEFF LEVINSON INTERIM EXECUTIVE OFFICER

May 21, 2024

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

Dear Supervisors:

### DEACCESSION OF FLUID DYNAMICS BY MYTHOGRAPH AT ALONDRA COMMUNITY REGIONAL PARK (SECOND DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)

# SUBJECT

The Department of Arts and Culture's (Arts and Culture) Civic Art Division (Civic Art) recommends the deaccession of Fluid Dynamics, 2012, by artist team Mythograph (Kipp Kobayashi and Marta Perlas) located at the skatepark and pool grounds of the Alondra Community Regional Park (Alondra Park) in the Second Supervisorial District at 3850 West Manhattan Beach Boulevard, Lawndale, CA 90260.

## IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Find that the proposed actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the reasons stated in this letter and the record.

2. Approve deaccession of the artwork Fluid Dynamics by artist team Mythograph (Kipp Kobayashi and Marta Perlas), created for the Alondra Community Regional Park, from the County Civic Art Collection.

# PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Fluid Dynamics was commissioned in 2008 and installed in 2012. The artwork is located on the floor of two high traffic areas of the Alondra Park: the skate park and pool deck. As a result, both pieces are subjected to daily surface damage from park users (including skaters), weather, fading, pool chemicals, vandalism, and guano from birds at the adjacent lake. Soon after installation, the artwork

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had sustained significant damage from all the above, documented in site visits by Civic Art Staff in 2014, 2016, 2018, and 2023. On February 23, 2018, as part of the Civic Art Baseline Inventory assessments, RLA Conservation stated the artwork was in "very poor condition due to severe fading combined with long-term surface abrasion from use as a skating surface... based on the current condition of the artwork, the original paint used for the mural does not seem durable enough for the activities that take place in the areas." On March 29, 2023, the Civic Art Registrar visited the site and documented the high degree of damage as well as the near total destruction of the artwork, which is in an irreversible condition of deterioration. Since the artwork cannot be relocated, removed, or refabricated, Civic Art recommends the artwork be deaccessioned from the Los Angeles County Civic Art Collection.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

The recommended actions are consistent with North Star 3, which challenges collective abilities to respond to public needs and expectations. Recommended actions will allow Department to be an innovative, flexible, effective, and a transparent partner focused on advancing the common good.

## FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

Approval of the recommended actions will have no impact on the County General Fund.

## FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Per the Civic Art Procedures for deaccessions, on January 17, 2024, the artists were notified by email of the artwork's irreparable damage, removal, and candidacy for deaccession. This was followed by a registered letter sent to both artists in February 2024. In both communications, the artists were notified that they have until April 17, 2024, to document the artwork (90 days from the first notice). One of the artists, Kipp Kobayashi, replied to the email and stated that he was long aware of the deterioration and accepted the recommendation to deaccession.

The Department of Parks and Recreation were notified of the recommendation for deaccession in October 2023. The South Agency agreed with Civic Art's recommendation for deaccession and confirmed their staff can remove the small remaining areas of the artwork on the west-facing wall of the skatepark and remove the artwork plaque.

In accordance with Civic Art's Deaccessioning Procedure in the Civic Art Procedures, the County retains the right to deaccession any Civic Art on County property if certain criteria are met. In this case, the artwork is damaged irreparably, or to an extent where repair is infeasible or impractical. Deaccession and removal of an artwork from the County's Civic Art Collection requires review by County Counsel, approval by the Director of Arts and Culture, and approval by the Board of Supervisors.

## **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

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

#### **CONCLUSION**

It is requested that the Executive Office, Board of Supervisors, return the adopted, stamped Board letter to Arts and Culture, Civic Art at Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration 500 West Temple Street,

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B-79-2, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

Should you have any questions, please contact Grace Ramirez Gaston, Division Director, Civic Art, Arts and Culture, via email at GRamirezGaston@arts.lacounty.gov or (213) 512-8784.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristin Sakoda

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KS/HR/GRG/MM

c: Chief Executive Office County Counsel Executive Office, Board of Supervisors