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The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
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Los Angeles, California 90012

Board of Supervisors

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**RECOMMENDATION TO PARTIALLY DEACCESSION CIVIC ARTWORK
FOUR SONGS OF MOTION AT OLIVE VIEW MEDICAL CAMPUS
(THIRD DISTRICT) (3 VOTES)**

Director

Kristin Sakoda

Chief Deputy

Heather Rigby

SUBJECT

The Department of Arts and Culture (Arts and Culture) recommends approval to partially deaccession a County owned artwork formerly located at Olive View Medical Campus in Sylmar.

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 partial deaccession of the artwork "Four Songs of Motion" by Amy Trachtenberg and Jeffrey Miller, created for Olive View Medical Campus in 2011, from the County Civic Art Collection.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of the recommended actions will find that the deaccession is exempt from the CEQA and will partially deaccession the artwork from the County Civic Art Collection.

Background

The Civic Art Division recommends the partial deaccession of *Four Songs of Motion*, 2011 by Amy Trachtenberg and Jeffrey Miller, located at Olive View Medical Center (Olive View), 14659 Olive View Drive, Sylmar, CA 91342 in the Third Supervisorial District. The artwork components proposed for deaccession are located in the building's outdoor courtyard and include a custom fence embedded in the courtyard's arches and three of eight concrete pavers previously installed in the courtyard floor. These elements have since been removed, resulting in the recommendation for partial deaccession.

In 2011, Arts and Culture, through its Civic Art Division, commissioned Amy Trachtenberg and Jeffrey Miller to create a Civic Artwork titled *Four Songs of Motion* at Olive View, in collaboration with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) and the Fifth Supervisorial District, prior to redistricting to the Third Supervisorial District in 2021.

The artwork was designed as an integrated artwork with components installed in both the interior and exterior spaces of the former Olive View-UCLA Psychiatric Urgent Care Center.

At the building's entrance, four red pigmented square concrete steppingstones were embedded with conjoining metal circles. In the entry area hangs a suspended mobile sculpture composed of 26 acrylic disks in yellow, green, and orange, each patterned with leaf shadows and arranged in a triangle formation. On the opposite wall of the reception area is a striped painting on wood panels of various tones, displayed in two sections.

Four square steppingstones with metal circles are situated in the exterior courtyard. The courtyard was formerly enclosed by multi-colored polycarbonate panel garden screen set within a metal frame installed between the courtyard's brick arches.

Reason for Deaccession

In 2023, the Internal Services Department (ISD), on behalf of DMH, performed tenant improvements at Olive View. As part of the project, one component of the Civic Artwork- a fence/garden screen, was identified as a ligature risk and required mitigation due to safety concerns. DMH authorized ISD to remove the fence and replace it with a new fabricated screen. Three pavers located in the courtyard directly in front of the original fence were also removed and replaced with poured concrete.

The project scope, which included the demolition of a portion of the Civic Artwork, was incorporated into the preconstruction documents and approved by ISD, DMH, Chief Executive Office (CEO), and Public Works. Arts and Culture's Civic Art Division was not consulted or notified of the planned removal of portions of the Civic Artwork. The project was subsequently approved by the Board of Supervisors and proceeded without reference to the Civic Artwork or its status within the County Collection.

In the fall of 2024, the fence and paver components were deinstalled and transported to a recycling facility. DMH has since acknowledged the partial removal and disposal of the Civic Artwork as an oversight, citing staff turnover and tight project timelines as contributing factors. Given that the removed components cannot be recovered or re-fabricated, the Civic Art Division recommends that the artwork be partially deaccessioned from the Los Angeles County Civic Art Collection.

The Department of Mental Health and Internal Services Division were notified of the recommendation for deaccession on January 14, 2025. Per the Civic Art Procedures, on July 24, 2025, the artists were notified via email of the artwork component's removal, destruction, and planned deaccession. This was followed by a virtual Zoom meeting with both artists on August 11, 2025, and a registered letter sent to both artists on October 20, 2025. County Counsel also reviewed the recommendation to deaccession the artwork.

Next Steps

Following your Board's approval of the partial deaccession, the Civic Art Division will continue to maintain the artwork that remains.

A memo was sent by the Arts and Culture Director to all County Departments as a reminder to notify the Civic Art Division for matters pertaining to civic artworks before any removal, destruction, or planned construction, per the Civic Art Policy and Procedures.

IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGIC PLAN GOALS

The recommended actions support North Star 2, Foster Vibrant and Resilient Communities, Community Connections of the County's Strategic Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

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

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Pursuant to the Civic Art Procedures adopted by the Board in 2020, the Civic Art Division consulted with County Counsel to create a report to be presented to the Director of Arts and Culture. After the Director has recommended deaccession, the Civic Art Procedures require Board approval.

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

The partial deaccession 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 Arts and Culture, Civic Art at 500 West Temple Street, B-79-2, Los Angeles, CA 90012.

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

Respectfully submitted,



KRISTIN SAKODA, Director

KS:GRG:dgg

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