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CALIFORNIA



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DANIEL TARICA
GENERAL MANAGER

December 13, 2022

The Honorable Karen Bass
Mayor of Los Angeles
Room 303, City Hall

The City Council
C/O City Clerk
Room 395, City Hall
Attention: Legislative Coord

RE: REQUEST TO ACCEPT A \$450,000 GRANT FROM THE CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION PROP 68 LOCALLY-OPERATED STATE PARK PROGRAM TO FUND THE WATTS TOWERS RESTORATION – PHASE II

RECOMMENDATIONS

The General Manager of the Department of Cultural Affairs respectfully requests that the City Council take action on the following actions, subject to approval by the Mayor:

1. AUTHORIZE the General Manager of the Department of Cultural Affairs or designee to retroactively submit an application form and Grant Agreement with the California State Department of Parks and Recreation "Locally Operated State Park Program of Proposition 68" and accept \$450,000 award to finish renovation of the Watts Towers and required safety protocols to re-open to the public within a three-year timeframe from grant acceptance through March 31, 2025, and submit any other necessary agreements or grant period extensions relative to the implementation of this project, subject to the review and approval of the City Attorney as to form and legality;
2. Adopt the Authorizing Resolution (Attachment 1), as requested by the grantor and subject to the approval of the City Attorney as to form, which endorses the State of California grant agreement and authorizes DCA to comply with the State Parks funding requirements of the Grant Agreement;
3. AUTHORIZE the Controller to:
 - A. ESTABLISH a new interest-bearing fund entitled "Watts Towers Renovation – Phase II," and recognize a receivable in the amount of \$450,000, and receive and disperse the funds to complete capital improvements, upon presentation of documentation or proper demand, and create other new appropriation accounts within the newly established fund for sub-granting to Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) to perform the scope of Phase II renovations;

Appropriation Account	Account Name	Amount
30XXX-TBD	Watts Towers Renovation – Phase II	\$450,000

4. AUTHORIZE the General Manager of the Department of Cultural Affairs or designee to execute a subgrantee agreement with "Museum Partners," the nonprofit dba the Los Angeles County Museum of Contemporary Art (LACMA) in an amount up to \$600,000, as LACMA is named as a project partner by the State, due to its experienced conservation staff and protocols, to perform temporary services required for

this project, which are of an expert, technical and special nature, subject to the City Attorney approval as to form and legality,

5. AUTHORIZE the General Manager of the Department of Cultural Affairs or designee to prepare any Controller's instructions needed to implement actions approved by the Council and Mayor on matters presented in or deriving from the transmittal, and/or to make necessary technical adjustment, and further, request that the Controller implement these instructions.

SUMMARY

In accordance with Los Angeles Administrative Code 14.6(b), DCA was directly invited to apply from the funder, and grant guidelines were provided less than 90-days from the grant deadline, therefore advance City Council approval to submit the applications was not feasible or required. In accordance with Los Angeles Administrative Code 14.6(b) and 14.8(c), DCA requests authority to submit this grant application retroactively, in accordance with the recommendations above, and authorization to subsequently accept and disperse grant funds.

DCA further seeks to sub-contract with "Museum Partners," dba LACMA, per Los Angeles Charter Section 371 (e)(2) confirming the services to be performed are of an expert, technical and special nature as well as occasional and temporary, and for these reasons, competitive bidding is not practical or advantageous.

The Locally-Operated State Parks Program (LOSPP) competitive grants fund renovation of aging infrastructure within a locally operated unit of the California State Parks system. The Watts Towers Arts Center Campus is located within State Park boundaries. This program was established in Public Resources Code (PRC) §80073(a). Applicants to the LOSPP grant program must be a local public agency with operating agreements with the State Parks system.

BACKGROUND

The California Department of State Parks has agreements with public, nonprofit, and private entities to operate or co-manage 96 state park units that leverage resources and community connections to increase capacity of state parks to provide enhanced visitor services while protecting and preserving natural and cultural resources consistent with the department's mission.

Several grant programs have been introduced since the 2018 Proposition 68 legislation -- the California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act. The Locally Operated State Park Program grants support renovation of existing cultural features in need of repair and deferred maintenance.

LACMA, including advisory staff from the Getty Foundation's Conservation Institute, was retained due to the expertise of staff and scientists involved. The FY12/13 City budget provided a special allocation of \$2M to execute an agreement with LACMA for the full-scale restoration of the main three towers that comprise the structure. This urgent repair work was required to ensure safety from falling debris, and to mitigate further corrosion.

This initial \$2M City investment enabled LACMA to raise an additional \$500,000 from the James Irvine Foundation, and \$200,000 from Bank of America. DCA further raised \$500,000 from Federal Emergency Management (FEMA) funds, \$30,000 from the Ahmanson Foundation, and \$10,000 from the Angeli Foundation. This additional funding allowed for student apprentices and educational training for young people interested in museum sciences.

At the start of renovation, LACMA developed the "Watts Towers Treatment Plan," through monitoring, testing, and experimentation of materials. The successful renovations in Phase I, completed between January 1, 2018 through December 31, 2020, included mortar repairs, filling in cracks, and the repair of decorative elements within the Towers. Each repair was fully documented using standard conservation protocols and entered into a single, custom designed database to allow for ease of access and to inform future research and scholarship.

Phase II will finish renovation efforts and will restore the artwork's Gazebo, Fountain, and Canopy – three main features that characterize the Watts Towers next to the Towers themselves. This phase will also include enhanced

safety features and informative signage. The timeline for construction per the funder allows, if needed, up to March 31, 2025 to finalize renovation. DCA anticipates a public unveiling with grand opening events further celebrating the current 100th Anniversary of the Watts Towers.

The estimate provided from LACMA to finish all renovation in Phase II is \$600,000. In the FY21/22 City budget, DCA received a \$150,000 special appropriation; which enabled a 25% match to award \$450,000 from the California State Parks to obtain the \$600,000 budget required for final renovations. Following all renovation, LACMA will produce a new guide with recommendations for the long-term preservation of the towers, with an emphasis on regular care, maintenance, and monitoring to mitigate future damage to the Towers or major repair work. Phase II restoration will ensure the public's safety to tour around the structures. It also ensures its longevity for future generations to learn from and appreciate.

FISCAL IMPACT

There is no impact to the General Fund 100.

Daniel Tarica

DANIEL TARICA
General Manager
Department of Cultural Affairs