

MOTION

TO CITY CLERK FOR PLACEMENT ON NEXT
REGULAR COUNCIL AGENDA TO BE POSTED

#54

For over 50 years, the Watts Happening Cultural Center has been a gathering place for the community and artists in Watts. The Cultural Center is also the home of the famous Watts Coffee House restaurant and performing arts venue.

The building is owned by the City and currently vacant except for the Coffee House. The Cultural Center is in need of significant refurbishment and upgrades for both safety and code compliance and to continue its community-serving role.

The National Trust for Historic Preservation's African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund has announced a Conserving Black Modernism grant program that will offer planning grants to support the preservation of 20th-century sites designed by Black architects.

The Bureau of Engineering is seeking authority to apply for grant funding to begin the refurbishment process and commission a Historic Structures Report. The grant application deadline is April 7, 2023 and grant recipients will receive up to \$150,000 in grant funding.

Refurbishment of the Cultural Center is supported by many organizations including the Mafundi Institute, a long-time tenant of the building hoping to return to the historic site, the Los Angeles Conservancy, the GRoW Annenberg Foundation, Community Initiatives, and the National Organization of Minority Architects.

The Watts Happening Cultural Center has enjoyed a half-century of community support, providing a venue for literacy programs, visual and performing arts and community meetings, as well as a unique locally owned and operated restaurant, and the City should take all necessary steps to restore this community resource.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Bureau of Engineering be authorized to apply for up to \$150,000 in grant funding for a Historic Structures Report of the Watts Happening Cultural Center from the National Trust for Historic Preservation's African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund and negotiate a grant agreement and any other necessary agreements to receive funding.

I FURTHER MOVE that, should funding be awarded, the Bureau of Engineering be instructed to return to Council prior to receiving authority to accept/execute any necessary grant agreements.

PRESENTED BY:

TIM McOSKER

Councilmember, 15th District

SECONDED BY:

MAR 2 1 2023

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