



Agenda Report

Fullerton City Council

MEETING DATE: MAY 7, 2019

TO: CITY COUNCIL / SUCCESSOR AGENCY

SUBMITTED BY: KENNETH A. DOMER, CITY MANAGER

PREPARED BY: HUGO CUIEL, DIRECTOR OF PARKS & RECREATION
AMANDA ARBISO, PARKS & RECREATION MANAGER

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF LEMON PARK MURALS
RESTORATION AND ADDITIONAL COMMUNITY ART
ENGAGEMENT OPPORTUNITIES

SUMMARY

On February 5, 2019, Council Member Zahra, supported by Mayor Pro Tem Fitzgerald, requested a future agenda item on the Lemon Street Murals located at 701 South Lemon Street to discuss restoration and potential improvements to the Lemon Street Bridge.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council:

1. Approve the restoration of one mural and appropriate up to \$8,500 from the Parks and Recreation Budget.
2. Provide further direction on additional restoration and enhancement opportunities through community partnerships and the Public Arts Committee.

PRIORITY POLICY STATEMENT

This item matches the following Priority Policy Statement/s:

- Infrastructure and City Assets.

FISCAL IMPACT

\$8,500 from Parks and Recreation Budget – General Fund for restoration of one mural.

DISCUSSION

The Lemon Street Murals, next to Lemon Park on the concrete pedestrian overpass, were created in several stages by multiple artists. The earliest pieces were part of a neighborhood beautification effort led by the Maple Community in 1977—1979 and funded by federal block grants through the Comprehensive Employment and Training Act (CETA). La Mujer Latina and Niños Del Mundo, by renowned muralist Emigdio Vasquez Sr., were added as funding became available in subsequent years.

Production of the original group of murals was headed by artist David Whalen who led Fullerton High School student employees and volunteers in the creation of these art pieces. Over time, the murals have aged and have been restored twice, most recently in 2011 when Niños del Mundo was cleaned and restored by May Painting Conservation, Inc. At this time, the entire collection is in need of varied restoration efforts ranging in price and restoration technique.

In 2008, the City's Public Art Committee developed a plan to commence the restoration efforts. Community meetings were held and a Lemon Park Mural Subcommittee was formed. These efforts, however, coincided with the economic downturn of 2009. While it was the City's and the community's desire to move forward with a restoration plan, only the one mural was restored before the Redevelopment Agency, the source of funding for Public Art, was dissolved in 2012 and the project was shelved.

Additionally, during the community meetings held in 2011, there was discussion and consideration given to covering and preserving the existing murals and giving the new generation the opportunity create new ones. The cost to restore the murals in 2011 was estimated at \$195,780.

In a follow up to his suggestion for this agenda item, Council Member Zahra met with Emigdio "Higgy" Vasquez Jr., son of original muralist Emigdio Vasquez and City Staff to research restoration efforts. Mr. Vasquez submitted a proposal for mural restoration and community art engagement opportunities that summarized the costs of restoring 8 murals and creating new signage for \$94,550. (Attachment 2)

The Public Art Committee and Council Member Zahra will be meeting to discuss the Lemon Park Murals. As part of the consideration for City Council discussion is to request that the Public Art Committee, under the direction of the Fullerton Museum Center, initiate a fund raising campaign to restore murals and undertake other community art engagement opportunities at this location, to include potentially art work involving the Lemon Street pedestrian bridge. The idea is that the City could initially fund one restoration effort to "seed" the concept and get the community involved and excited about additional restorations or art opportunities, while the Public Art Committee and Fullerton Museum Center work with Mr. Vasquez on potential fundraising ideas and efforts.

Attachments:

- Attachment 1 – PowerPoint Presentation
- Attachment 2 – Mural Restoration and Community Art Engagement Proposal