



City of Pomona

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

ADMINISTRATION | OFFICE OF ECONOMIC BUSINESS AFFAIRS

November 20, 2025

TO: Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Ata Khan, Deputy Director of OEBA
Jocelyn Ayala, AIPP Program Manager

SUBJECT: 2022 Call for Art – Mosaic Mural by Gary Lett project update and approval for new location.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Recommendation to City Council for relocation of the artwork from Martin Luther King Jr. Park to the Civic Center.

PROJECT INFORMATION

As part of the 2022 Call for Art, on August 8, 2022, the Cultural Arts Commission reviewed and approved Gary Lett's proposal for a large-scale mural mosaic ("artwork") to be located in Martin Luther King Jr. Park (APN: 8344-024-901). This artwork is titled "Freedom is not so free, neither is Peace!" and is expected to be 54 feet (width) by 11' feet (height). This artwork was proposed with a budget of \$150,820.00. It was meant to be a year-long project with several workshops dedicated to Pomona Youth aiding in the creation of the artwork. Due to the scale of the artwork being underestimated, the Artist required three amendments to adjust the timeline of the project's completion.



In August 2024, Staff noted that the approved location of the artwork may not withstand the physical weight of the artwork as brought to the attention from the artist to be near two tons. Upon discussion with Building & Safety, Public Works and the Artist over the course of two months, the approved location was no longer suitable to host the artwork due to concerns of the weight not being sustained.

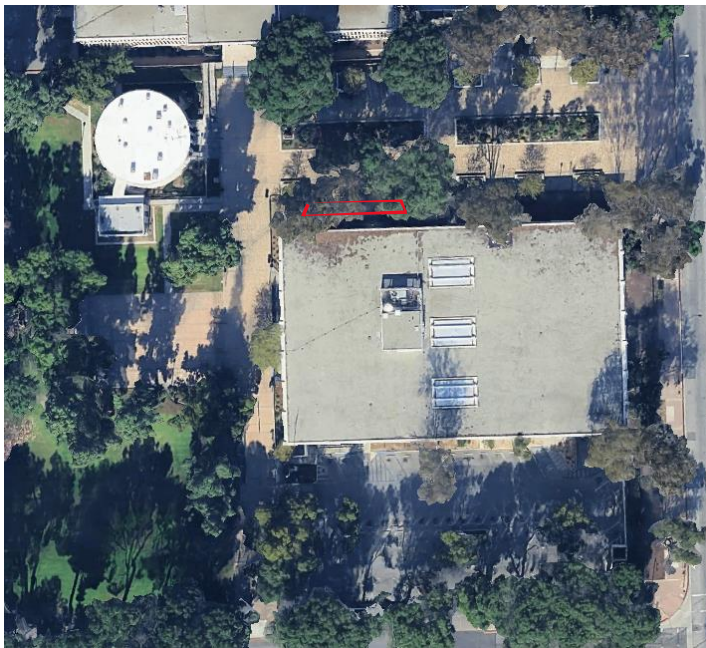
On October 17, 2024, Parks and Recreation Commission approved a new location (Image: new location indicated by the red area on the map) at Martin Luther King Jr. Park. Staff were originally projecting project completion March 2025 at the recommendation of the Artist, however due to the work being underestimated, the Artist did not complete the final tile piece until August 2025. At completion, Staff and the Artist became concerned with the location previously decided due to

further research, constructing a wall becoming more unfeasible and impractical for the available areas of the park.

Staff spent time to document every tile that the Artist created for this artwork and store it temporarily.

PROPOSED PROJECT LOCATION

The new proposed location for this artwork is the Civic Center. The artwork would be placed in front of the library on the north side facing City Hall. This location was reviewed with the Artist and openly accepted as the newly proposed location. The artwork will **not** be placed on the building exterior. It will require a capital improvement project to build a skeletal wall that can sustain the weight of the artwork and be placed in front of the library.



In making this transition, Staff would seek the possibility to remove the fence portion that is directly in front of the mural that will activate the use of the existing seating again, provide lighting, and support the library in utilizing the space in conjunction with the artwork.