



City of Pomona

CULTURAL ARTS COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

ADMINISTRATION | OFFICE OF ECONOMIC BUSINESS AFFAIRS

October 27, 2025

TO: Cultural Arts 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 request for new location.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Approval of an additional \$5,000.00 to be added to the existing agreement in order for the Artist to supervise the installation of the mosaic and the new location in the Civic Center.

PROJECT INFORMATION

As part of the 2022 Call for Art, on August 8, 2022, the 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 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 and Public Works, the approved location was no longer suitable to host the artwork due to concerns of the weight not being sustained. It's for this reason that Staff sought a new location at Martin Luther King Jr. Park. Staff spent time searching for an appropriate location and even sought Parks & Recreation Commission's approval for the new location. However, upon further research constructing a wall in the park became more unfeasible and impractical for the available areas of the park.

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 new proposed location.

It is important to note that this location will also require approvals outside of the Cultural Arts Commission. The location will be reviewed for historical impact as Civic Center is a historic landmark; this will likely require, at minimum, a Minor Certificate of Appropriateness. It will also be reviewed by the Parks and Recreation Commission, as Civic Center is a park, and will ultimately be reviewed by City Council as a city owned property. As part of this outreach, Staff will

also engage the Library Board of Trustees on the relationship between the freestanding outside mural with the operations and programming of the public library.

PROPOSED PROJECT UPDATE

Staff would initiate a capital improvement project to construct a structure to place the artwork in and support the installation of the piece. In this process, Staff is proposing adding an additional \$5,000.00 to the current agreement with the City of Pomona and Artist Gary V. Lett in order to support the Artist supervising the installation.

Attachments:

1. Attachment 1 – Draft Resolution