



CITY OF POMONA

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

COMMISSION REPORT

DATE: March 6, 2019

TO: Historic Preservation Commission (HPC)

FROM: Development Services Department, Planning Division

SUBJECT: ITEM G-1

**REVIEW AND DISCUSSION OF THE COMMUNITY MURAL
LOCATED AT POMONA CITY HALL, 505 SOUTH GAREY AVENUE.
APPLICANT: THE dA CENTER FOR THE ARTS. PROPERTY OWNER:
CITY OF POMONA (CITY COUNCIL DISTRICT 2)**

STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Historic Preservation Commission review and discuss the community mural located at Pomona City Hall and provide feedback to the Planning Division.

DISCUSSION

Proposed Mural

The proposed mural is known as the vision of the Lila O', the Girl Scout Gold Award Project winner (Attachment 1). The mural is intended to utilize art as a form of community engagement. In October of 2018, the applicant, dA Center for Arts, hosted a series of "Wall Flower" art workshops at Hamilton Park and at the dA Center for the Arts. Pomona residents of all ages were invited to paint a flower petal to add to a proposed community mural. The flower petals are the original artwork of local residents and include a wide array of subjects, representative of the diverse community (Attachment 2). The residents who participated in the art workshops will be invited to participate in the painting of the mural located at Pomona City Hall.

Mural Application and Approval

On January 24, 2019, the applicant submitted a request to install the mural on a garden wall at Pomona City Hall, located at 505 S. Garey Avenue. The mural is proposed to be located at the southwest block of Garey Avenue and Mission Boulevard; it will be on the lower level, north facing central wall of the non-public entrance to Pomona City Hall (Attachment 3). The wall is located below street level and will be partially visible from Mission Boulevard (Attachment 4). The wall is approximately 4'-7" in height and 34'-0" in length. The mural will be executed by muralist, Chris Toovey, a local artist, arborist, and co-founder/President of dA Center for the

Arts. There is a community component proposed for the mural, in that many Pomona residents will participate in the painting; this work will be supervised by Mr. Toovey, who has executed multiple murals in the community (Attachment 5).

On February 25, 2019, the Cultural Arts Commission Citizens Advisory Committee reviewed and recommended Cultural Arts Commission approval of the subject community mural, Mural Permit No. 11316-2019; on the same day, the Cultural Arts Commission approved Mural Permit No. 11316-2019.

Historical Significance of Pomona City Hall

The Pomona City Civic Center was designed by Welton Becket & Associates and constructed in 1969. The Civic Center is composed of six structures which include Pomona City Hall, Council Chambers, Public Library, Police Department, and Public Health buildings. These six structures are known as the largest concentration of Welton Becket & Associates designed structures in the Nation. Welton Becket & Associates is known for their complete design approach and attention to detail. Their iconic contributions to modern architecture in Los Angeles County include, Santa Monica Civic Auditorium, Capital Records Tower, Cinerama Dome, and the Music Center of Los Angeles County.

Pomona City Hall is unidentified in the 1993 Historic Resources Survey conducted by Diane Marsh. During the 1993 Survey City Hall was approximately twenty-four years old and thus did not meet the fifty-year threshold for historic structures per the California Environmental Quality Act.

Although, Pomona City Hall is not currently designated a Landmark or identified in the 1993 Historic Resources Survey, due to the inherent historical nature of this structure, staff felt it prudent to bring the matter before your Commission for input.

CONCLUSION

The proposed community mural will not have a significant impact on a historic resource. The Civic Center is not a designated landmark, and though publically accessible, the proposed mural is located on a planter wall in an area only partially visible from the public right-of-way. It will not affect the architectural details of the existing City Hall. It will also act as a catalyzing tool to encourage activation of an underused public space.

The project is consistent with .5809-25 of the Pomona Zoning Ordinance and has been approved by the Cultural Arts Commission. Consequently, the Planning Division recommends that the Historic Preservation Commission review and discuss the community mural located at Pomona City Hall and provide feedback to the Planning Division.

Respectfully Submitted by,

Respectfully Prepared by,

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ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment 1 – Mural Representation
Attachment 2 – Wall Flower Detail
Attachment 3 – Location Map & Aerial Photograph
Attachment 4 – Site Photographs and Description
Attachment 5 – Artist