


Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR
July 19, 2005

To: Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council
From:  Philip Kamlarz, City Manager
Subject: Contract: Turtle Island Monument Artwork at Civic Center Park Fountain

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to execute a contract and any amendments with Scott K. Parsons for design, development and installation of the Turtle Island Monument at the Civic Center Park Fountain in an amount not to exceed \$34,000; and allow the artwork to be publicly displayed elsewhere until the fountain is restored.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

In November 1996, Berkeley voters adopted Measure S, which authorized bond funds of \$4 million for public improvements in the Downtown Area. A total of \$900,000 was allocated toward the renovation of Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park. A separate allocation of \$200,000 was made by Council using General Funds toward the project as part of the FY 2001 budget. The total project budget was \$1,100,000. Funds for the Turtle Island Monument in the amount of \$34,000 will come from Measure S.

Budget Code: 653-5849-450-65.30-XX8P68.....\$34,000

CMS# TBIDV

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

On April 19, 2005, Council chose not to allocate one-time capital funds to restore the fountain at Civic Center Park due to competing priorities and the lack of annual operating and maintenance funds in the Parks Division's budget. However, Council did direct staff to complete the Turtle Island Monument and install it on the non-working fountain. On April 20, 2005, the Turtle Island Monument Selection Committee concluded their review of the artist proposals, which resulted in the April 27, 2005 Civic Arts Commission recommendation that a contract be awarded to Scott Parsons to complete the artwork. However, the Civic Arts Commission and City staff are concerned that if the artwork is installed in the non-working fountain, and therefore not covered by the water in the fountain's pools, it will be exposed to vandalism and theft. The Civic Arts Commission and City staff therefore recommend that the artwork instead be placed on

public display at some other location (to be identified by the Civic Arts Commission, City staff, and the project's proponents) until the fountain is renovated and put into operation.

BACKGROUND:

With the certification of the Environmental Impact Report in July 2002, Council approved the concept of the Turtle Island Monument and its installation at the fountain as part of the Civic Center Park Rehabilitation Project. A Call to Artist design competition was advertised nationwide in the of Fall 2003. A total of eight (8) artists submitted proposals (slides and background materials). In the Fall of 2004, a Selection Committee was assembled comprised of the following members: two Civic Arts Commissioners, two Parks and Recreation Commissioners, two Landmarks Preservation Commissioners, two members of the Native American community and one Parks Recreation and Waterfront Department staff person. All submittals were reviewed and the top three finalists were selected to develop design proposals and maquettes (small models). The top three finalists were Scott K. Parsons of Denver, CO; Richard Clopton of Berkeley, CA; and Artesance of El Cerrito, CA. The Selection Committee held a public meeting on February 16, 2005, where all three artists presented their design proposals and maquettes. The top-ranked artist, Scott Parsons, was requested to present more information and provide a revised model, which was subsequently approved by the Selection Committee on April 20, 2005.

On April 27, 2005, the Civic Arts Commission approved completing the public art historic turtles for the Civic Center Fountain by Scott Parsons with possible placement in City buildings for display until fountain is functioning (M/S/C: Snippen/Thompson/Unanimous).

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Scott K. Parsons displayed the greatest ability to understand and expand upon the Turtle Island myth and concept desired by the City, and deliver the project within the available budget. This will enable the City to complete this component of the Civic Center Park Rehabilitation Project (The Turtle Island Monument).

CONTACT PERSON

Mark Mennucci, Project Manager, Parks, Recreation and Waterfront Dept., 981-6436

Approved:



Marc Seleznow
Director, Parks, Recreation & Waterfront Department

RESOLUTION NO. -N.S

AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT AND ANY AMENDMENTS WITH SCOTT K. PARSONS FOR DESIGN, DEVELOPMENT AND INSTALLATION OF THE TURTLE ISLAND MONUMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$34,000; AND ALLOW THE ARTWORK TO BE PUBLICLY DISPLAYED ELSEWHERE UNTIL THE FOUNTAIN IS RESTORED

WHEREAS, in November 1996, Berkeley voters adopted Measure S, which authorized Bond funds of \$4 million in public improvements in the Downtown Area, and a total of \$900,000 in Measure S funds was allocated toward the renovation of Martin Luther King Jr. Civic Center Park, including funds for the Turtle Island Monument; and

WHEREAS, a separate allocation of \$200,000 was made by Council using General Funds toward the project as part of the 2001 budget, for a total project budget of \$1,100,000; and

WHEREAS, a Call to Artist design competition was advertised nationwide in Fall 2003 and proposals were reviewed by a Selection Committee comprised of: two Civic Arts Commissioners, two Parks & Recreation Commissioners, two Landmarks Preservation Commissioners, two members of the Native American community and one Parks Recreation & Waterfront Department staff person; and

WHEREAS, on April 27, 2005, the Civic Arts Commission approved completing the public art historic turtles for the Civic Center Fountain by Scott Parsons with possible placement in City buildings for display until the fountain is functioning; and

WHEREAS, funds are available in the current year budget in the Measure S fund, budget code 653-5850-450-65.30-XX8P68 and the contract has been entered into the City contract database, and assigned CMS No. TBIDV.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the City Manager is authorized to execute a contract and any amendments with Scott K. Parsons for design, development and installation of the Turtle Island Monument at the Civic Center Park Fountain in the amount of \$34,000; and allow the artwork to be publicly displayed elsewhere until the fountain is restored. Budget Code 653-5850-450-65.30-XX8P68. A record signature copy of said contract and any amendments to be on file in the Office of the City Clerk.

