

MEMORANDUM

September 19, 2019

TO: MEMBERS, PORT COMMISSION
Hon. Kimberly Brandon, President
Hon. Willie Adams, Vice President
Hon. Doreen Woo Ho
Hon. Gail Gilman
Hon. Victor Makras

FROM: Elaine Forbes
Executive Director

SUBJECT: Informational presentation on a proposed 1-year temporary art installation at the Pier 14 Plaza, between the Agriculture Building and Pier 14, on The Embarcadero adjacent to Mission Street

DIRECTOR'S RECOMMENDATION: Approve Attached Resolution

Executive Summary

An artists' collaborative, the *Engineered Artworks*, is proposing to site a temporary sculpture known as the *Gateway Tower* on Port property in the plaza area between the Agriculture Building and Pier 14. The Gateway Tower sculpture is 30 feet tall, 8 feet wide and expresses a likeness of Coit Tower, although finished with colorful doors from San Francisco Victorian homes. The interior depicts artists' contributions to San Francisco through the City's history (see attachments A. Site Plan, and B. Artist's Proposal). Engineered Artworks is a team of San Francisco and Bay Area artists led by Sean Orlando.

Engineered Artworks would receive a license fee waiver for this installation consistent with the Port Commission adopted Rental Rate Schedule, and would enter into a 12 month revocable license on the Port's standard license form.

This Print Covers Calendar Item No. 10A

Strategic Plan Conformity

The proposed sculpture installation supports a key goal of the Port's 2019 - 2023 Strategic Plan.

Evolution: Improve Port open spaces to provide publicly desired amenities and activities.

Project Benefits

Engineered Artworks states that the process whereby their art is created, the means by which it is displayed, and the character of the work itself should inspire interactions that connect people to one another in a larger communal context. Engineered Artworks goal is to capture the spirit of that endeavor through the extensive network of artists in San Francisco and the Bay Area. To that end, the creative story of the Gateway Tower, and its intended relationship to housing availability in San Francisco, will be explained through views into the Gateway Tower where the works of individual artists are expressed.

Project Description

The sculpture would be located at the Pier 14 entry plaza east of the Embarcadero Promenade and south of the new passenger bridge to the Downtown Ferry Terminal. The proposed location would be visible to those on the Embarcadero Promenade and roadway while not impeding circulation, and allow room for visitors to walk around the sculpture. The space for the installation is large enough for visitors to gather off the Promenade or sit on raised sections of the Art Ribbon to view the art.

Gateway Tower is a 30 ft. tall reinterpretation of the infamous Coit Tower. Sean Orlando states, "many artists are being forced to leave San Francisco – a creative class that has been a cultural foundation for many generations". The Gateway Tower honors artists contribution in shaping the City's identity, and the doors from San Francisco homes symbolize hope and opportunity about the future we create. In addition to doors, the ground level features view holes that invite onlookers to gaze into microcosms of 2D and 3D shadow boxes created by eight local San Francisco and Bay Area artists.

Use of Port Property

Public art generally has enjoyed positive public comments and has attracted more visitors to the waterfront and to other waterfront uses. The Port's current leasing policies adopted by the Port Commission on July 9, 2019 authorized the Executive Director to waive Public Art use fees for art installations where (i) there are no other uses for the space during the term of the license/MOU that would generate rent to the Port; (ii) no uses would be displaced; (iii) the Port does not expend any or only minimal or incidental resources or revenues to support the installation; (iv) there is a direct benefit to the Port in that Public Art enlivens and attracts people to the waterfront. Pier 14 is included in the list of applicable sites. Port staff believes that the Gateway Tower installation meets these criteria and will be an activating contribution to the Pier 14 and Downtown Ferry Terminal site.

For Gateway Tower, Engineered Artworks would enter into a standard form license with the Port to provide all installation and removal costs, liability insurance, temporary lighting, and removal of the sculpture at any time upon 30 days' notice from the Port. Pending completion of the license and an encroachment permit, the artists would install the sculpture in late October.

Permitting & Environmental Review

Engineered Artworks is required to submit an approvable Port encroachment permit. The permit requires stamped engineering drawings, proof of liability insurance, compliance with the Port's maintenance and removal requirements, and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act for installations in public spaces.

The Port has previously secured approval from the Bay Conservation and Development Commission for the installation of public art at this location, on a rotating basis, for a period not to exceed two years per art piece.

Environmental Review (CEQA)

This public art installation is a continuation of an existing use and does not require further CEQA environmental review.

Future Art Selection Process

At this meeting, Port staff will present how art is brought to the Port and seek guidance from the Port Commission about how in the future, artists might be selected and how art proposals could be solicited.

Prepared by: Dan Hodapp, Senior Waterfront Planner

For: Diane Oshima, Deputy Director, Planning & Environment

Attachments:

- A) Site Plan
- B) Artist's proposal