



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: February 7, 2012

To: Honorable Mayor & City Council

From: Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Assistant Director of Community Services

Subject: Recommendation by the Fine Arts Council/Commission liaison to commission *Endless III* by Jaume Plensa in the amount of \$350,000 from the Fine Arts Fund, to relocate *Erratic* by Roxy Paine, and to place both pieces in the block of Beverly Gardens Park between Rodeo Dr. and Beverly Dr.

Attachments:

1. Photos of *Endless III*
2. Map of Beverly Gardens Park indicating recommended location(s) for the installation of the piece
3. Additional information about Jaume Plensa

INTRODUCTION

The Fine Arts Commission and the Fine Arts Council liaison (Councilmembers Bosse and Mirisch) recommend commissioning a sculpture entitled *Endless III* by Spanish artist Jaume Plensa. This piece would be placed in Beverly Gardens Park in one of two locations: on the center green space which runs along the west side of Beverly Dr. or at the location where the Roxy Paine piece entitled *Erratic* is currently located. All costs related to the purchase and installation of the piece would be paid for by the Fine Arts Fund which is reserved for art related expenses. The liaison further recommends the relocation of *Erratic* by Roxy Paine to either the southwest corner of the Rodeo block of Beverly Gardens Park or the northeast corner of the Beverly Dr. block. Staff seeks Council's direction on whether to proceed with the purchase and installation of *Endless III* and relocation of *Erratic*.

DISCUSSION

One of the charges of the Fine Arts Commission is to select public art for the City. The Commission seeks to commission a work entitled *Endless III* by Plensa. Jaume Plensa (b. 1955) is a Spanish Catalan artist and sculptor whose award winning work has been installed and shown internationally. The piece is made of stainless steel and measures

96 ½" x 100 3/8" x 87 ¾". The piece is in the form of a seated human being and is created by fusing together letters from 8 different languages, including English, Spanish and Hebrew. Additionally, the Commission, in consultation with the Council liaison, recommends the relocation of Roxy Paine's *Erratic* and the desired location for each piece.

The Fine Arts liaison, which met on 12/20/11, recommends that the Plensa piece be placed in Beverly Gardens Park, either on the green space that runs along the west side of Beverly Dr. or at the current location of *Erratic* by Roxy Paine which is near the corner of Crescent Dr. and Santa Monica Blvd. At its January 19th meeting, the Fine Arts Commission expressed a preference for placing the Plensa piece along Beverly Drive. At its January 24th meeting the Recreation and Parks Commission also expressed a preference for the Beverly Drive location.

At the Council liaison meeting, the relocation of *Erratic* by Roxy Paine was also discussed. Two possible locations were developed for this piece: either the southwest corner of the Rodeo block of Beverly Gardens Park or the northeast corner of the Beverly Dr. block. At its January 19th meeting, the Fine Arts Commission expressed a preference for placing the Roxy Paine piece at the southwest corner of the Rodeo Block. The Recreation and Parks Commission also endorsed this location at its December 20th meeting.

Staff seeks Council direction on whether to proceed with the commissioning and installation of *Endless III*, whether to relocate *Erratic* and whether the locations recommended by the Commissions are acceptable to the Council.

FISCAL IMPACT

The cost to commission *Endless III* will be \$350,000, including shipping. There will be some additional costs involved in installing the piece, creating a base for it and providing appropriate lighting. Should the City Council wish to pursue the commissioning of *Endless III*, staff will return to a formal session of Council to provide more precise costs for these ancillary items. Additionally, staff will present an estimated cost for relocating *Erratic* at the study session.

It should be noted that all costs for acquisition, installation and location of these pieces would come from the Fine Arts Fund. The Fine Arts Fund is generated from developer related fees and can only be spent for fine art related purposes. The balance of the Fine Arts Fund as of 1/12/12 was \$960,020.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council provide staff and the Fine Arts Commission direction on whether to pursue the commission of *Endless III* by Jaume Plensa and relocate *Erratic* by Roxy Paine to the locations indicated above.


Nancy Hunt-Coffey
Approved By

Attachment 1

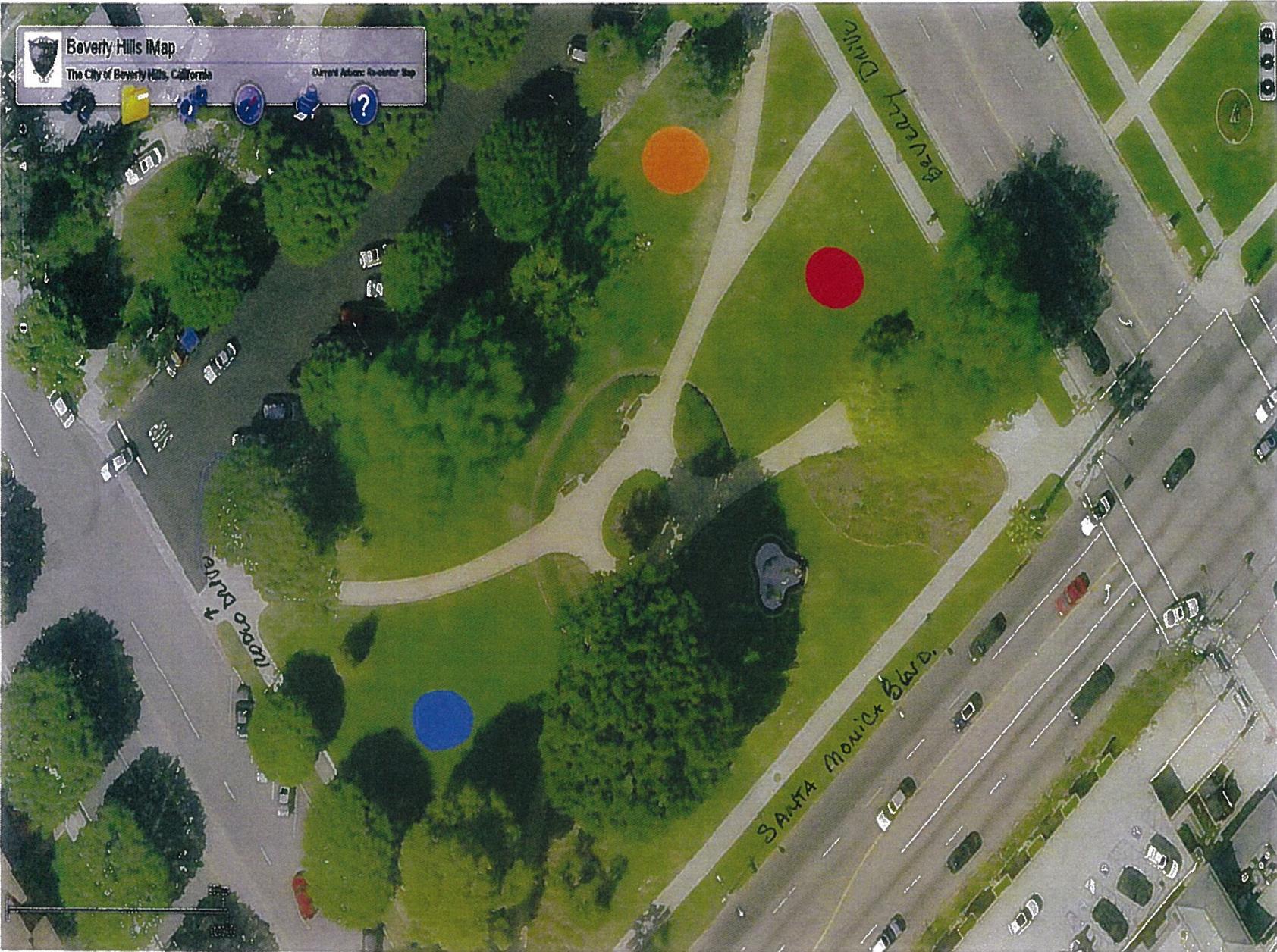


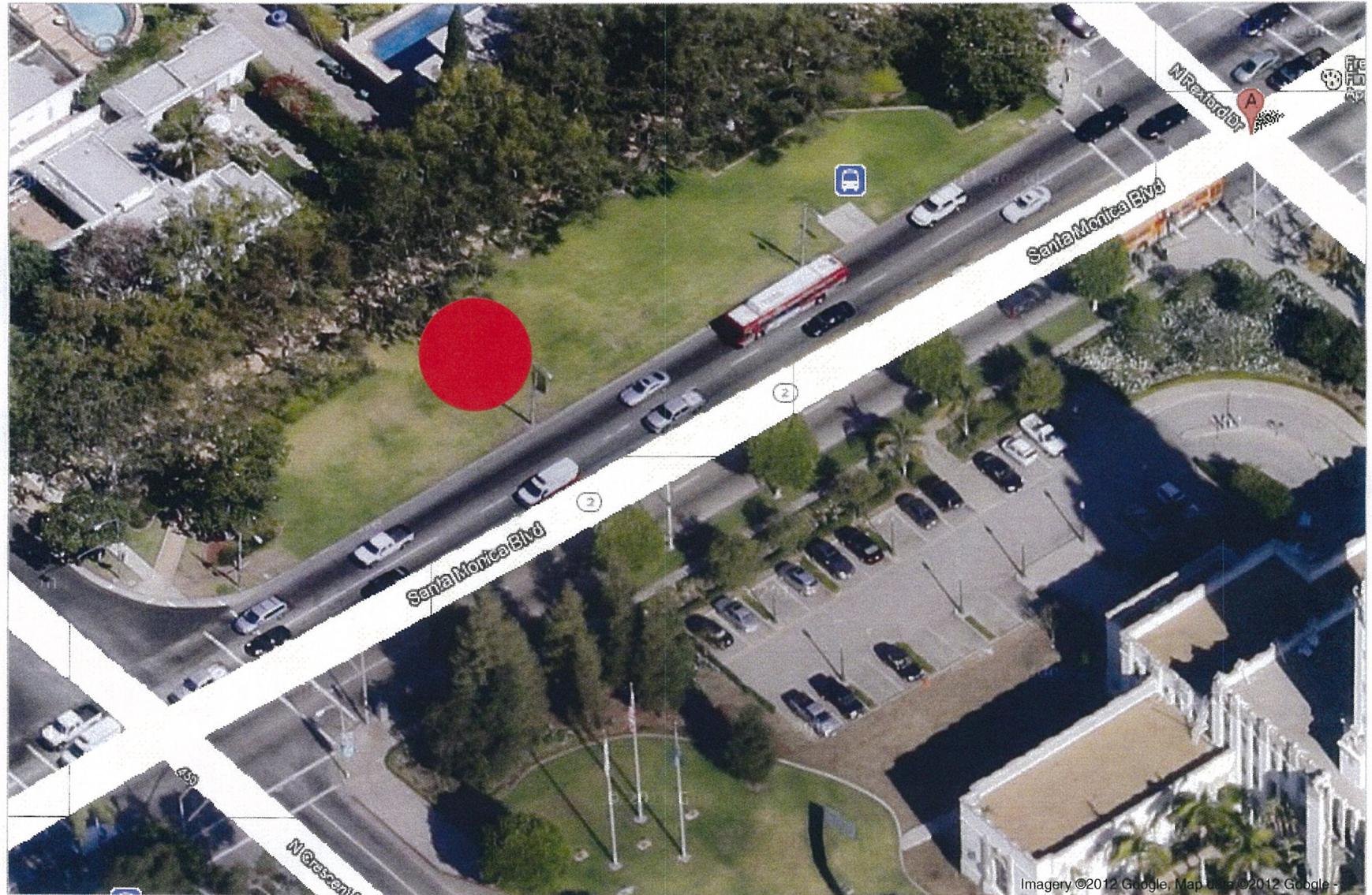
Endless III by Jaume Plensa



Erratic by Roxy Paine

Attachment 2





Attachment 3

JAUME PLENSA, born in Barcelona in 1955

Short biography:

From 1980 with his first exhibition in Barcelona until today, he has lived and worked in Berlin, Brussels, England, France, USA, and he currently shares his residence between Paris and Barcelona. He has been a teacher at the École Nationale des Beaux-Arts in Paris and has also been a lecturer at many universities and art institutions. He collaborates as professor invited at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Since 1992 he has obtained various distinctions and awards, both national and international, notably his investiture as a Chevalier des Arts et des Lettres by the French Ministry of Culture (1993), the National Award for Plastic Arts – National Culture Awards of the Government of Catalonia 1997 (Barcelona, 1997), Honorary Doctorate from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (Chicago, USA, 2005), and most recently the 2009 Mash Award for Public Sculpture (London, 2009).

His sculptural work has gone through several stages developed largely with recuperation materials, iron, bronze, copper, ... In 1986, he started a series of cast iron sculptures, then he incorporated light and relief written text. Recently his melting materials have been synthetic resin, glass, alabaster, plastic, light, video and sound. He also has a large production of works on paper and etchings. Beside his sculptural oeuvre he is collaborating often working on stage design and costumes for opera and theatre productions.

A significant part of Plensa's production is set in the context of public sculpture, a sphere in which he has works installed in Spain, France, Japan, the United Kingdom, Korea, Germany, Canada, the USA, etc. *The Crown Fountain*, in Chicago's Millennium Park, is one of his latest project, and undoubtedly one of his most brilliant. In 2005 he finished *Breathing*, which is installed in the new BBC building in London, in 2007 *Conversation à Nice* for the place Masséna in Nice, (France), *El Alma del Ebro* for the Expo Zaragoza 2008, in Zaragoza, (Spain) and in 2009 *Dream* for St Helens, Liverpool, (UK) and *World Voices* in Dubai (UAE), *Ogijima's Soul* in Ogijima, Japan, *Awilda in Salzburg*, Austria, *Tolerance*, for the city of Houston (USA), and *Echo* for Madison Square Park, New York. He is currently working on several new projects as *Wishing Well* for The Bow-Calgary, Canada, *Mirror*, for Rice University, Houston (USA), and *Seoul Close up* for Seoul, Korea.

His work has been exhibited in numerous galleries and museums in Europe, the United States and Japan: Fundació Joan Miró, Barcelona (Spain); Galerie Nationale du Jeu de Paume, Paris (France); Henry Moore Sculpture Trust, Halifax (United Kingdom); Malmö Konsthall, Malmö (Sweden); Städtische Kunsthalle, Mannheim (Germany); Musée d'Art Contemporain, Lyons (France); Museo Luigi Pecci, Prato (Italy); Kestner Gesellschaft, Hannover (Germany); Museum Moderner Kunst Stiftung Ludwig, Vienna (Austria); Palacio de Velázquez - Museo Nacional Centro de Arte Reina Sofía, Madrid; BALTIC The Centre for Contemporary Art, Gateshead (United Kingdom); the Arts Club Center for Contemporary Art, Chicago (USA); Musée des Beaux-Arts, Caen (France); Wilhelm-Lehmbruck-Museum, Duisburg (Germany); Kunsthalle Mannheim Museum (Germany); Centro de Arte Contemporáneo, (Malaga); Musée d'Art Contemporain, Nice (France); IVAM Institut Valencià d'Art Modern, Valencia, (Spain); The Frederik Meijer Gardens & Sculpture Park, Grand Rapids, Michigan, (USA), The Nasher Sculpture Center, Dallas, (USA); Picasso Museum, Antibes (France), The Yorkshire Sculpture Park, (United Kingdom), etc.

As for Plensa's upcoming personal exhibitions, *Oir Río, other ideas for Río*, Río de Janeiro, Brasil, and the one being prepared for EMMA - Espoo Museum of Modern Art, Espoo Kaupunk, Finland, in 2012.

He regularly shows his art works at Galerie Lelong in Paris, Galerie Lelong, New York and Richard Gray Gallery in Chicago and New York.