



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS STAFF REPORT

Meeting Date: April 22, 2014

To: Honorable Mayor & City Council

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

Subject: Recommendation by Fine Art Commission/ Fine Art Liaison Committee (Bosse and Gold) to commission a sculpture by Carol Bove to be placed in the northeast corner of the Rodeo to Beverly block of Beverly Gardens Park

Attachments:

1. Memo from FAC Chair Sandy Pressman and FAC Commissioner Alan Kaye requesting liaison approval of Bove sculpture and liaison notes
2. Proposed placement for Bove Sculpture
3. Letters of support and images of other Bove installations
4. Bio and CV for Ms. Bove
5. Articles about Ms. Bove's work
6. Renderings of proposed sculpture commission

INTRODUCTION

The Fine Art Commission and the Fine Art Commission liaisons (Mayor Bosse and Vice Mayor Gold) recommend the commission of a sculpture by American artist Carol Bove. This piece would be placed in the northeast corner of the Rodeo to Beverly block of Beverly Gardens Park. Staff seeks City Council's direction on whether to proceed with the purchase and installation of the sculpture.

DISCUSSION

One of the charges of the Fine Art Commission is to select public art for the City using monies from the Fine Art Fund which can only be used for art related purposes. The Commission seeks to commission a sculpture by Carol Bove which is in her steel glyph series. Please see attachments for photographs of Ms. Bove's other glyph sculptures. Carol Bove is an artist and sculptor whose work has been installed and shown in prominent national and international museums and outdoor venues. The proposed piece would be made of white powder coated steel. These are the same materials that are used for outdoor equipment, such as park benches and picnic tables. As a result, the expectation is that the piece will be very durable, even with interaction from the public, and that protective measures will not be required. Additionally, maintenance of

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the piece should be minimal. There have been no issues with vandalism or maintenance reported with Ms. Bove's other outdoor installations.

The artist originally gave two possible renderings of the piece, which were attached to the City Council report for the April 4th meeting. Since that time, the artist has clarified that she prefers the single piece which would measure approximately 100" x 100" over the piece which measured 78" x 100". As a result, the Fine Art Commission now recommends the artist's preferred piece. A piece of this size falls within the same general dimensions as other works by Ms. Bove in the glyph series. Staff has examined these dimensions and determined that a piece of this size would not have an impact on The Art Show. Additionally, this piece would complement Kusama's *Hymn of Life*, Paine's *Erratic* and Plensa's *Untitled*, and would further the goal of developing the sculpture garden concept, which has been discussed with the City Council in the past.

The piece would be part of Bove's glyph series. As described by the David Zwirner Gallery, a glyph "...denotes an element of writing or an individual mark that combined with other individual marks contributes to the meaning of what is written. A glyph, in other words, is the smallest complete unit of a written language."

The proposed location for the piece is in the northeast corner of the Rodeo to Beverly block of Beverly Gardens Park. To settle on this location, the Fine Art Commission followed the process laid out by Vice Mayor Gold at the February 18, 2014 City Council study session. A site visit to the proposed location was held with representatives from the Fine Art Commission and the Recreation and Parks Commission. At a subsequent Recreation and Parks meeting, the proposed placement of the Carol Bove sculpture was approved with a 3-to-2 vote. The proponents were supportive of placement in this location, contingent upon receiving the renderings and dimensions of the piece. These renderings were subsequently shared with the Recreation and Parks Commission at their March meeting. The dissenting votes felt that the piece was not appropriate for the park.

FISCAL IMPACT

The cost to commission the Bove glyph will not exceed \$235,000, including creating the piece, crating, shipping, creating a base, installing and providing appropriate lighting. Should the City Council wish to pursue the commissioning of this piece, staff will return to a formal session of City Council to execute a contract with the gallery that represents Ms. Bove.

It should be noted that all costs for acquisition, installation and location of these pieces would come from the Fine Art Fund. The Fine Art Fund is generated from developer related fees and can only be spent for fine art related purposes. The balance of the Fine Art Fund as of 3/13/14 was \$1,288,208.84.

RECOMMENDATION

That the City Council concur with the liaison recommendation of commissioning a steel glyph by artist Carol Bove to be installed on the northeast corner of the Rodeo to Beverly block of Beverly Gardens Park.


Nancy Hunt-Coffey
Approved By