

# **Attachment 1**



CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS  
COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Vice Mayor Lili Bosse  
Councilmember Julian A. Gold M.D.

FROM: FAC Chair Sandy Pressman and FAC Commissioner Alan Kaye

DATE: February 27, 2014

SUBJECT: Request for approval of Bove sculpture

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The Fine Art Commission is excited to recommend the purchase and commission of a unique sculpture by the renowned artist, Carol Bove.

Since she started exhibiting in the late 1990s, Bove's work has been the subject of solo exhibitions at prominent venues. Born in 1971 in Geneva to American parents, Bove was raised in Berkeley, California and studied at New York University. The artist is co-represented by David Zwirner in partnership with Maccarone in a unique model in which the two galleries collaborate to help Bove realize future projects and exhibitions both in the United States and abroad.

Having received a letter of support from Ann Philbin, Director and Aram Moshayedi, Curator of the Hammer Museum, we would like to highlight the following:

"Having had the first-hand opportunity to experience Bove's large-scale projects and monumental sculptural installations in recent solo exhibitions at the Museum of Modern Art in New York, the Horticultural Society of New York, the Blanton Museum of Art in Austin, and the Institute of Contemporary Art in Boston, it is clear that she is an artist of incredible importance and one of the leading voices in American sculpture today. Bove is a distinct and notable voice within a generation of female sculptors. Her work is matched in quality and skill to artists like Roxy Paine, Tony Smith, and Yayoi Kusama whose iconic contributions to the City of Beverly Hills public art program have become an important part of the city's identity as a cultural leader at the forefront of difficult and intellectually challenging art.

The Fine Art Commission's support of Bove's practice, which is defined by formal elegance and a critical reassessment of modernist abstraction, maintains the rigor of the city's history of commissioning artists who are at the forefront of their field and who have made, or who are continuing to make, significant contributions to the history of art. By having solo exhibitions of her work in the world's most renowned institutions, as well as being included in such international group exhibitions as the 54<sup>th</sup> Venice Biennale, Bove's work has been understood to be part of the same context and historical lineage as the long list of artists supported to date by the Fine Art Commission."

This unique glyph has an organic and minimalist appearance that is the result of a process whereby flat steel strips are gradually passed through contoured rolls that shape them into tubular forms. Bove refers to her glyphs as a means to, "...denote an element of writing or an

City Council Liaison Meeting  
Request for approval of Bove sculpture  
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individual mark that combined with other individual marks contributes to the meaning of what is written."

The artist has agreed to commission an original piece of art for a price between \$150K-200K inclusive of a \$20,000 non-reimbursable deposit. This does not include the base, lighting and shipping. We estimate these costs will not exceed \$15K.

The sculpture should not require any special maintenance as it is all-weather construction and built for outdoors. The sculpture should not require any special protection. Glyphs have been displayed in public venues with no issues regarding heat retention or safety. Maintenance requires occasional wiping with a soft cloth.

We've included the recommendation for placement of the sculpture between Beverly Dr. and Rodeo in the north east quadrant as approved by both the Fine Art Commission and the Recreation and Parks Commission.

The Fine Art Commission has worked diligently reviewing artists for inclusion in the City's art collection, and with great enthusiasm requests your approval.

Council Liaison Meeting  
REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF BOVE SCULPTURE  
February 27, 2014  
4:00pm to 5:00pm

In attendance: Lilli Bosse, Vice Mayor; Dr. Julian Gold, Councilmember; Steven Zoet, Director of Community Services; Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Asst. Dir. of Community Services, City Librarian; Sandy Pressman, Chair of the Fine Art Commission; Alan Kaye, Fine Art Commissioner; Robbie Anderson, Chair of the Recreation & Parks Commission; Susan Gersh, Recreation & Parks Commissioner; Francis Bilak, Recreation & Parks Commissioner; Brad Meyerowitz, Patty Acuna and Aida Thau, supporting staff for the FAC.

The meeting convened at 4:05 pm.

- During public comments Robbie Anderson went on record as a private citizen acknowledging what a good job the Fine Art Commission (FAC) has done with the maintenance and restoration of the public art, especially with *Celluloid*. He also pointed out that *Celluloid* was not an art piece installed by the FAC and since the restoration was done with FAC funds, now we have a precedent and the next piece that should be restored is the fabulous fountain on the corner of Wilshire Blvd. and Santa Monica Blvd. He stated that the fountain is in very bad shape. The name of Robbie Anderson's grandmother is on the base of the fountain and he would like to see the FAC restoring this fabulous piece with the FAC funds.
- Dr. Gold, Councilmember, requested that the meeting focus on discussion of request for approval of Bove sculpture.
- Susan Gersh, Recreation and Park Commissioner, reported that it is too hard for R&PC to approve a designated area of the park to a piece of art that they have not seen in a rendition. She requested to the FAC to provide a rendition, drawing and/or a model of the proposed art work and indicate the actual dimensions.
- Sandy Pressman, Fine Art Commission Chair, reported that the FAC is following the same process that is stated on the FAC obligation. Every year the FAC has a priority exercise and if the work presented meets the criteria they decide to proceed. *Prudence*, the art piece by Carol Bove presented in the priority exercise. This particular piece was sold so the FAC wants to commission a piece similar in style and dimensions as *Prudence* to be purchased for the City. The FAC has a good relationship with the gallery that represents Bove and they would make drawings available with the 20K non-refundable deposit but they will not provide a model.
- Alan Kaye and Sandy Pressman informed this working committee that all Bove's glyphs (sculptures of elements of writing or marks) are made from powder coated steel rolls contoured into a tubular shape. They are unique and organic art pieces that can be appreciated from any angle. They are accessible art, understandable and they are a fabulous complement to the existing sculptures in the Beverly Hills Sculpture Garden. Sandy and Alan also reported that curators from LACMA, Hammer Museum, Highlight Art and the Ovitz family art collection (largest private art collection in the country), sent letters supporting the purchase of Carol Bove's artwork. This artist is growing in stature all over the world.

- Lili Bosse, Vice Mayor, asked if the sculpture would need protection. Sandy Pressman reported that this sculpture will not need protection. There is a similar sculpture by Bove installed in New York City with a reported 12,000 tourists admiring the art piece they have not had any incidents of people climbing over it. The glyph would be secured to a cement base sunk into the ground and the piece would be connected to the base appearing to be resting on the ground. The cost for this art piece is 150K-200K plus an additional 35K for lighting, crating, shipping and deposit. FAC funds will cover the cost of purchase, installation and maintenance.
- Steve Zoet, Director of Community Services, expressed his concern that we might be tapping to the limits of electrical sources to the part of the park proposed for installation of this piece. He suggested to study electrical capabilities of this location.
- Francis Bilak, Recreation and Parks commissioner, reminded this committee that R&PC voted 3-1 qualifying approval for this art piece based upon presentation of sketch with dimensions and description of the art. She also expressed concern that children could get caught on the art sculpture if they attempted to climb on it. Nancy Hunt-Coffey assured the committee that the FAC will show the piece to Risk Management.
- Dr. Gold also expressed concern regarding the impact of this purchase with the FAC funds. Sandy Pressman and Nancy Hunt-Coffey assured this committee that the purchase of new art for the City is not a rushed process and the purchase of this piece does not deplete the FAC fund.
- Lili Bosse expressed her enthusiasm towards the purchase of Carol Bove's glyph.
- Dr. Gold requested that the FAC provides all the information pertinent to the proposed piece of art: name of the piece, what it's about, dimensions, drawings and all discussed information to R&PC. Once all commissions get on the same page then we can proceed to present the proposal to City Council.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:03 pm.

# **Attachment 2**



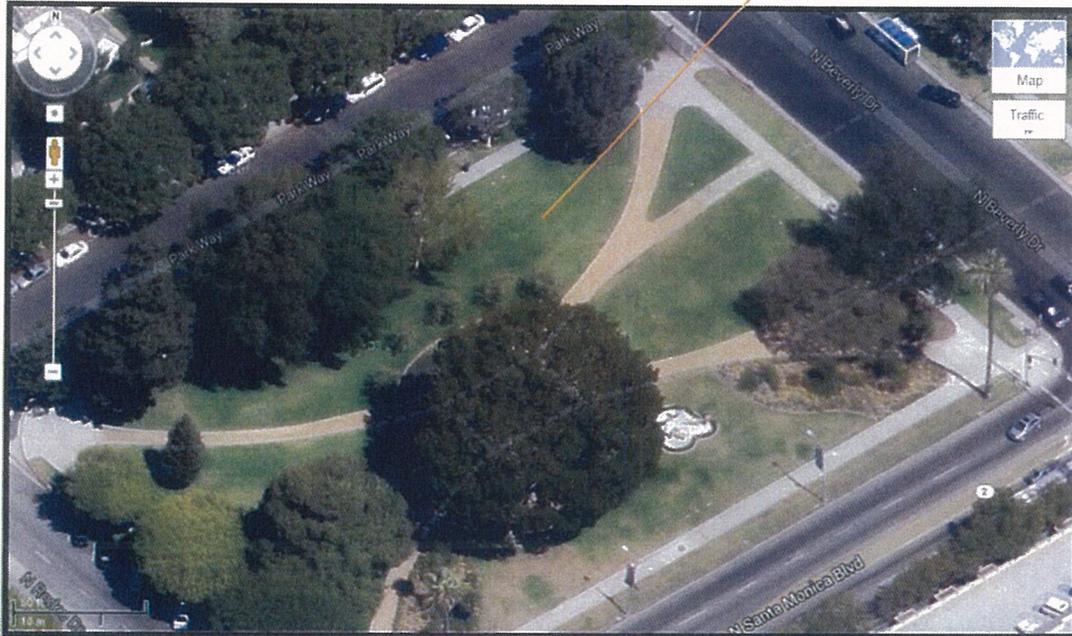
Fine Art Commission

PROPOSED PLACEMENT  
FOR BOVE SCULPTURE



# Fine Art Commission

Proposed location



Aerial view 1



# Fine Art Commission



Aerial view 2

Plensa



Kusama



Roxy Paine





## Fine Art Commission

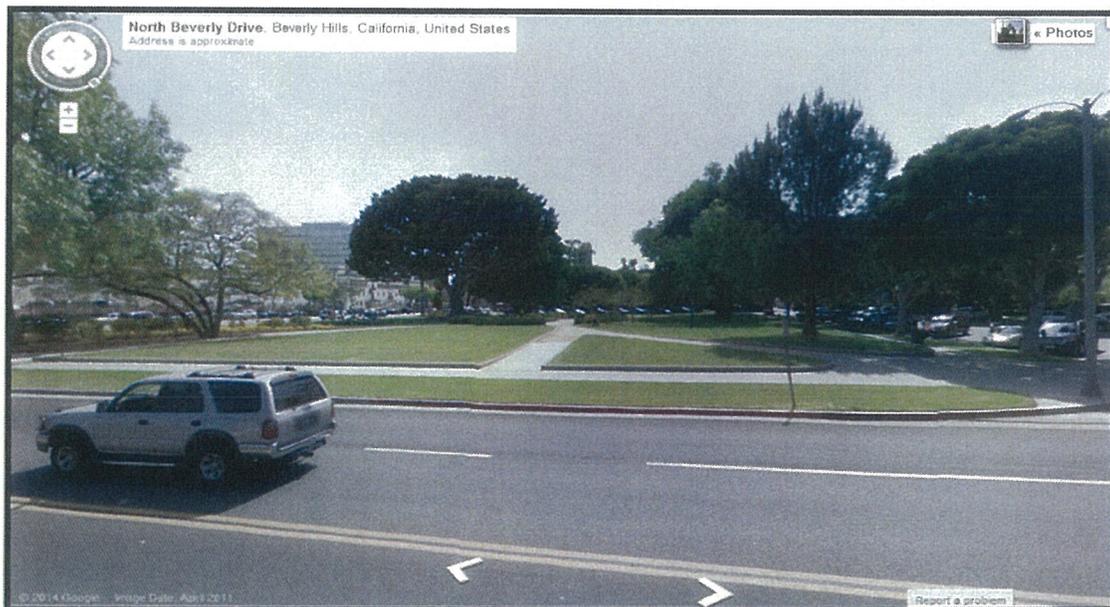


Photo of proposed location. View from Beverly Drive looking West.



## Fine Art Commission



Photo of proposed location. View 1 from Park Way looking South.



# Fine Art Commission

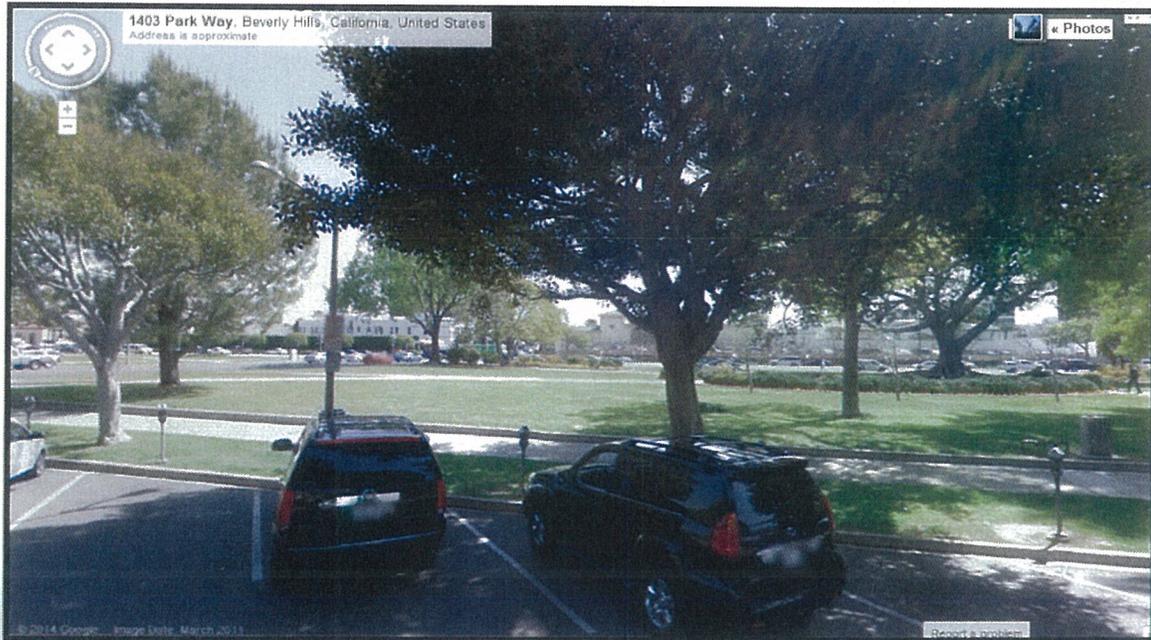


Photo of proposed location. View 2 from Park Way looking South.