



Agenda Item #: \_\_\_\_\_

# Staff Report

## City of Manhattan Beach

**TO:** Honorable Mayor Wilson and Members of the City Council

**THROUGH:** Geoff Dolan, City Manager

**FROM:** Richard Gill, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Juanita Purner, Cultural Arts Manager

**DATE:** February 1, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Presentation and selection of a 9/11 Memorial Public Art Project

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### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the City Council accept the presentations for the 9/11 Memorial Public Art Project and select one artist/design team to develop the memorial. Additionally, it is recommended to authorize the City Manager to enter into agreement with the top selection.

### **FISCAL IMPACT:**

There is a \$60,000 budget for the 9/11 Memorial Public Art Project. The Public Art Trust will have a balance of \$224,330.40 after the expenditure for the project.

### **BACKGROUND:**

In July 2003 the City Council directed staff and the Cultural Arts Commission to develop a memorial in remembrance of September 11, 2001 using two steel beams the City's Fire Department received from the World Trade Center site. The City Council approved the location of the southwest corner of 15<sup>th</sup> and Valley as the project site. This area is currently part of the construction site for the new Police and Fire Facility.

### **DISCUSSION:**

Staff and the Cultural Arts Commission created an RFP for the project and sent it to over 1400 prospective artists. At the June 30 deadline staff received 19 proposals.

Staff and the Commission developed a panel comprised of community members (Public Art Advisory Committee) who represented various aspects of public art and community involvement to review and prioritize the 19 proposals.

The Commission and PAAC met with City representatives (Engineering, and Maintenance) to study the short and long term effects and maintenance each of the proposals might have for the City.

After several public meetings, the Commission and PAAC narrowed the list of proposals to four

and through a contractual agreement each of the four artist/design teams developed a three dimensional maquette. The artist/design teams' maquettes were presented to the Commission and PAAC during the January 11, 2005 Cultural Arts Commission meeting.

The Commission and PAAC listened to each presentation and questioned the artist/design teams about the various aspects of their proposals. After careful consideration the Commission and PAAC prioritized each of the proposals and the following is a summary of their comments. The attached minutes provide a more detailed analysis of the 9/11 Memorial presentations. (The points assigned are indicated; lower points = higher priority)

**#1 – Untitled, Scott Yanofsky, Steve Oliker, Mark Brush and Studio 9One2** - Over all the model and presentation were considered to be beautiful and thoughtful. The placement and design serves to encourage community interaction. The proposal was educational and well researched. Simple in concept and fits the site. (22 points)

**#2 – Monument to September 11, 2001, Robert Kramer** – The simplicity of the design is most appropriate to the nature of a memorial and the design required minimal maintenance. The proposal lacked a thorough presentation of the project details such as the type of trees, an itemized budget and a plan for the educational component. (26 points)

**#3 – Risen Memories/Rising Hopes, Nancy Mooslin** – A wonderful concept, well thought out and an interesting use of materials. Concerns with this proposal were the height of the glass columns, and how the glass shields distract from the beams. The combination of trees and glass seemed to overwhelm the beams. There was concern with the relationship of the proposed memorial to the existing building. (31 points)

**#4 – Untitled, Milena Frieden** – The artist made a wonderful presentation; however this proposal exceeded the required budget without specifics on the possibility of raising the additional money (\$98,000-\$118,000). The artist became aware of the results and resubmitted a \$60,000 viable budget. (32 points)

The four maquettes have been available for public viewing in the Council lobby since January 11. The four artist/design teams will make a brief presentation at tonight's meeting.

**CONCLUSION:**

Staff and Cultural Arts Commission and the Public Art Advisory Committee recommend that the City Council accept the presentation for the 9/11 Memorial Public Art project and select one proposal. Additionally, it is recommended the City Manager receive authorization to enter into an agreement with the top selection.

**Attachment:**

January 11, 2005 Cultural Arts Commission Minutes