



# Staff Report

## City of Manhattan Beach

**TO:** Cultural Arts Commission

**FROM:** Richard Gill, Director of Parks and Recreation  
Megumi Sando, Acting Cultural Arts Manager *R.M.*

**DATE:** February 15, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Request from Leadership Manhattan Beach (Attachment A) to move the existing art sculpture in front of the Chamber of Commerce/Post Office per the attached plan

### **FISCAL IMPLICATION:**

There is no fiscal impact to the City based upon this request. Leadership Manhattan Beach would assume all costs for relocating the art sculpture.

### **BACKGROUND:**

As part of its approved goals, the City's Environmental Task Force recommended converting the landscape surrounding the U.S. Post Office located at 425 15th Street to a water-conserving, sustainable landscape with at least 50% less lawn, environmentally appropriate plantings, a water-conserving irrigation system, mulch applied between shrubs and trees, and efficient walking paths made up of decomposed granite, or mulch.

After receiving City Council approval of the project, the Environmental Task Force sought local partnerships to implement the proposal. Leadership Manhattan Beach has selected this as its 2012 class project and is in the process of converting the site to a sustainable demonstration garden.

Also located on the site is an art sculpture donated to the City in 1982 by Harold Roach. Mr. Roach is a Los Angeles-based sculptor whose geometric and organic forms are primarily composed of metal. In the 1980s, he donated several of his pieces to municipalities in the Los Angeles area, including Manhattan Beach, El Segundo, West Hollywood, and Monterey Park.

An initial project design has been developed and shared with the City Council, along with a listing of plants, trees, and shrubs that would be ideal for the location. This information was also shared with the public at a community meeting held on January 12, 2012.

### **DISCUSSION:**

The landscape plan includes a winding decomposed granite pathway running east and west across the site. To be compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), the pathway must be at least four (4) feet wide. The current art sculpture is located in the middle of the area proposed for the decomposed granite pathway.

The Leadership Manhattan Beach Class of 2012 proposes changing the placement of the art sculpture. The proposed changes include that:

- The sculpture be moved approximately twelve (12) feet closer to the building and placed east or west approximately two (2) to three (3) feet so as not to be directly centered in front of the wall, as it is now (per landscape designer's request to enhance design).
- The sculpture pedestal be sunk into the ground to a the level leaving 4" of visible base below the plaque (this would bring the piece into better balance compared with the building)
- The brick planter that surrounds the sculpture be removed (this would be essential to maintaining ADA compliance and prevent the crowding of artwork and new planting beds.) Once removed, thick shrubs and imbedded boulders would be used to keep the artwork a safe distance from walkers.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommends that the Cultural Arts Commission discuss Leadership Manhattan Beach's proposal and direct staff to include the Commission's recommendation in the staff report to City Council on the final landscape design plan.

**ATTACHMENTS:**

- A. Leadership Manhattan Beach Proposal and Site Map

# ATTACHMENT A

## Leadership Manhattan Beach Class of 2012 Post Office/Chamber Site Metal Art Sculpture Relocation Proposal

**Placement:** The metal art sculpture located on the southwest section of the Post Office site is 4' wide and sits in the middle of this section of the site. Combined with the surrounding circular brick planter the entire art display is 11' wide, taking up 1/3 of the available 31' width from street sidewalk to the Post Office building. Scale-wise, the 9' high installation is very tall in relation to the building's single story low-slung roofline and configuration of high horizontal connected windows.

The landscape plan includes a winding decomposed granite pathway running east and west across the site, and to remain ADA compliant it must be at least 4' wide. With the art piece sitting high and located in the middle of the area, we propose these changes:

- The piece be moved approximately 12' closer to the building and placed east or west 2'-3' feet so as not to be directly centered in front of the wall, as it is now (per landscape designer's request to enhance design).
- The artwork pedestal be sunk to the level of 4" above the plaque (see attached photos titled Artwork close-up or Artwork and landscape).
- Removal of the brick planter that surrounds the artwork. If a and b are not OK'd, this most important measure would ensure the path would fit, and without crowding of artwork and planting beds.

These measures would put the artwork in scale with the building, and, softened by the new surrounding vegetation, would offer visitors a more intimate experience with it as they meander pass it on the new pathway.

The Leadership Manhattan Beach Class of 2012 members would provide the labor to remove the brick planter. Class member and licensed contractor Vinny Fazzino and landscape designer Mimi Andersen of Garden Magic Company would direct. Once removed, thick shrubs and imbedded boulders would be used to keep the artwork a safe distance from walkers.

Additionally, as a side note, the Class has noticed that the sculpture's paint is peeling, and the piece urgently needs refurbishment. In the near future, we suggest the Cultural Arts Commission or the City consider:

- Stripping the old paint and either leave the piece in its natural state or paint it a color to match its natural state (see photos attached of other works by the artist) [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weathering\\_steel](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Weathering_steel)
- Return it to the original colors of when it was installed (turquoise and mauve). One later photo located recently shows the sculpture at one time had been painted red, white and blue, which we do not recommend repeating.

For more information on the artist Harold Roach and his work, please visit these sites:

<http://www.lacountyarts.org/civcart/projectdetails/id/135>

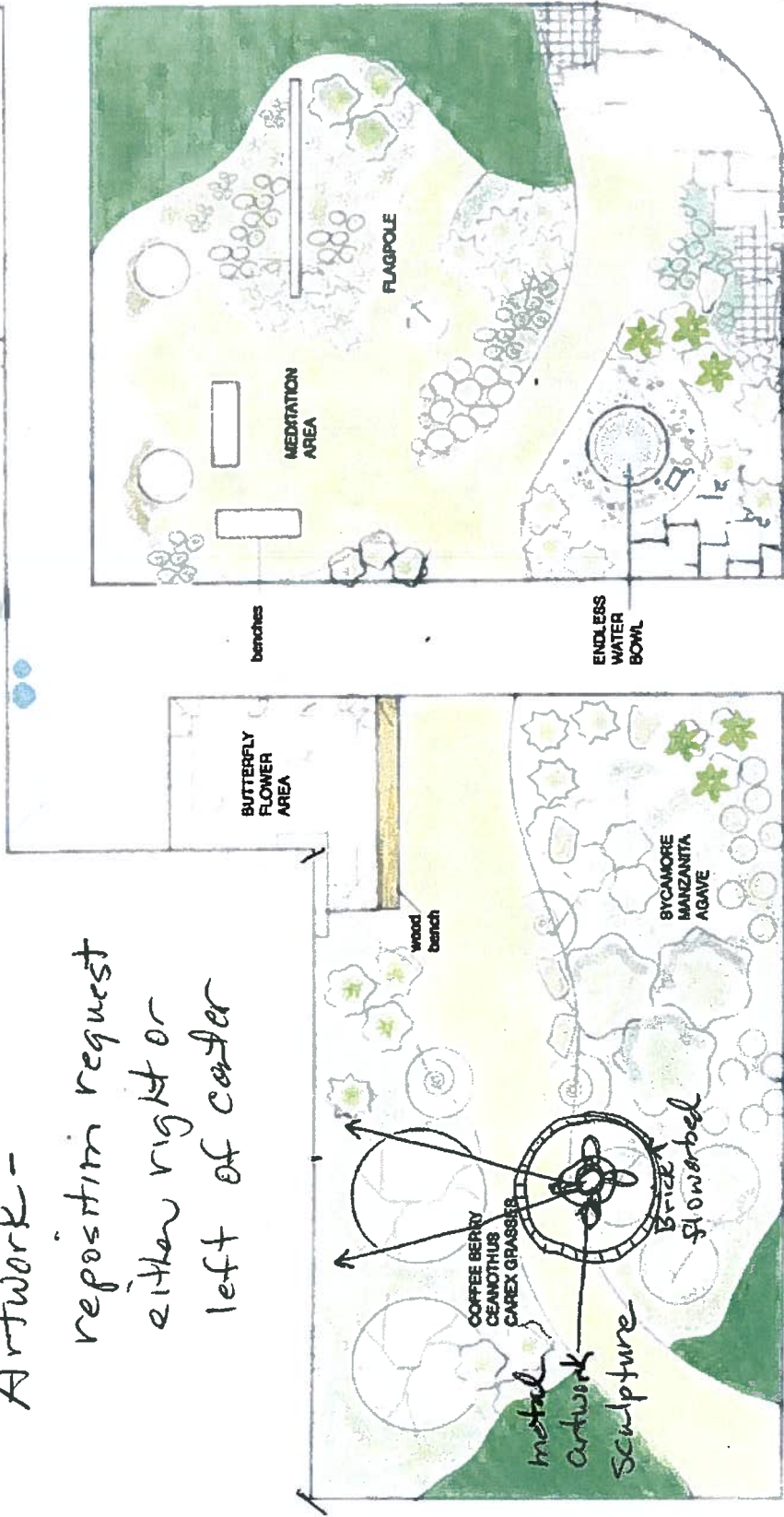
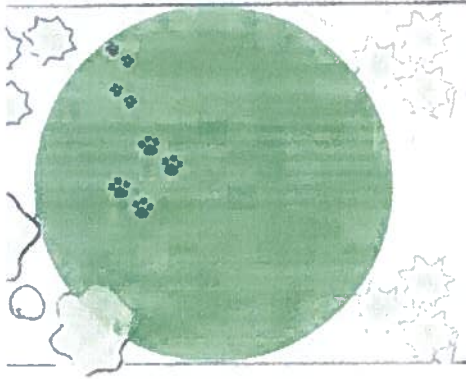
[http://www.1stdibs.com/vintagelighting/furniture\\_item\\_detail.php?id=180376](http://www.1stdibs.com/vintagelighting/furniture_item_detail.php?id=180376)

Respectfully submitted,  
Leadership Manhattan Beach Class of 2012  
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MANHATTAN BEACH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
& U.S. POSTAL OFFICE ANNEX



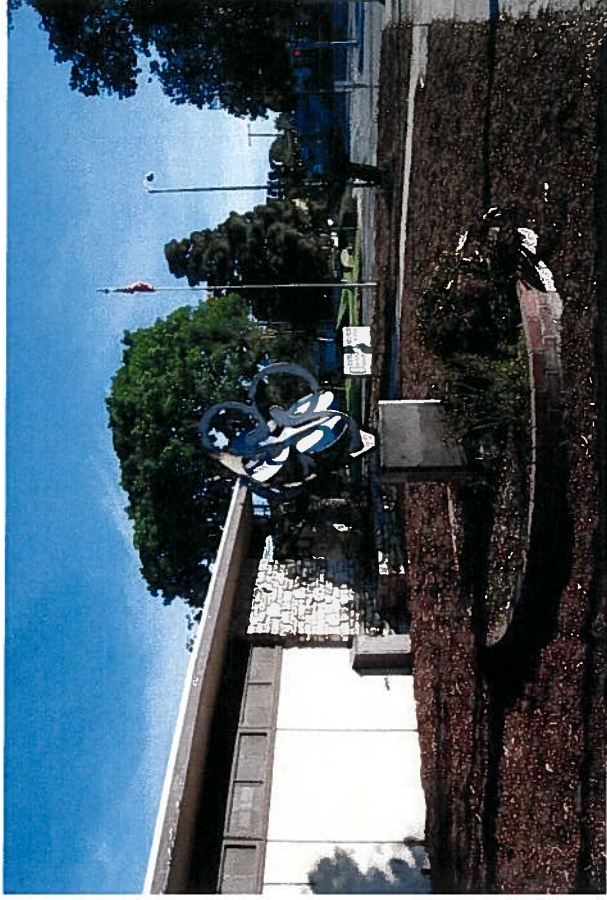
Artwork -  
reposition request  
either right or  
left of center



# LMB's Proposal for Artwork Location

Placement – with existing brick flowerbed, site will be crowded once path and beds added

Height – existing brick flowerbed and tall pedestal make it too tall for adjacent building style



Request permission to: a) Move piece closer to building , b) Sink pedestal lower, and c) Remove brick flowerbed. LMB would provide labor.

# Additional Recommendation: Refinish Artwork

- a) Mimic artist's other pieces of weathered steel
- b) Restore to original colors of mauve and turquoise

