

**APPROVED**  
SEP 17 2008

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 08-260

DATE September 17, 2008

**BOARD OF RECREATION  
and PARK COMMISSIONERS**

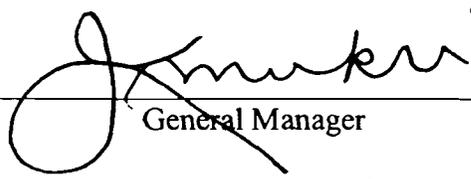
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BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY – GIFT AGREEMENT WITH FRIENDS OF THE OBSERVATORY (FOTO) FOR A DONATION TO SUPPORT THE GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY SCHOOL VISIT PROGRAM, INCLUDING ESTABLISHMENT OF SPECIAL FUND

R. Adams \_\_\_\_\_  
H. Fujita \_\_\_\_\_  
S. Huntley \_\_\_\_\_  
\*V. Israel \_\_\_\_\_

J. Kolb \_\_\_\_\_  
F. Mok \_\_\_\_\_  
K. Regan \_\_\_\_\_  
M. Shull \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
General Manager

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Accept with gratitude a gift from Friends Of The Observatory (FOTO), providing a \$175,000 donation (Gift) to support the Griffith Observatory School Visit Program during the 2008-09 school year;
2. Approve the proposed Gift Agreement, substantially in the form on file in the Board Office, subject to the approval of the Mayor and City Attorney, as to form;
3. Authorize and direct the Department's Chief Accounting Employee to create a special account in Fund 302, Department 89, Account 843M (Observatory School Program) and deposit the Gift funds accordingly upon receipt of the funds from FOTO, pursuant to the proposed Gift Agreement;
4. Direct the Board Secretary to transmit the proposed Gift Agreement to the Mayor in accordance with Executive Directive No. 3, and to the City Attorney for review and approval as to form; and,
5. Authorize the Board President and Secretary to execute the Gift Agreement, upon receipt of the necessary approvals.

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### SUMMARY:

FOTO has generously agreed to make a Gift of \$175,000 to Griffith Observatory, located at 2800 East Observatory Road, Los Angeles, California 90027. The Gift is intended to support the Observatory School Visit Program for the 2008-09 school year.

The Griffith Observatory School Visit Program serves fifth-grade students from across the region, with a large number coming from the Los Angeles Unified School District. Due to significant reductions in the Observatory's staffing and expense budgets, the Observatory sought FOTO's assistance in supporting the continuation of the Griffith Observatory School Visit Program for the 2008-09 school year. FOTO is seeking a multi-year private sponsor for the program and has committed \$175,000 of its own funding to ensure that the 2008-09 program can begin on time, while the search for a private sponsor continues.

The Gift funds deposited into an account in Fund 302, Department 89, Account 843M (Observatory School Program) will be used solely and exclusively for costs associated with the implementation of the Griffith Observatory School Visit Program. The reimbursement may be for part-time staffing, program expenses, and other related activities. The Department will provide regular reports to FOTO on the disposition of the funding and status of the funds in the account.

### FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

Acceptance of the Gift will have no fiscal impact on the Department's General Fund, as the General Fund would not have been used for the program in the 2008-09 school year. Without the funds contributed by FOTO, the Griffith Observatory School Visit Program would have been cancelled for the 2008-09 school year.

This report was prepared by Mark Pine, Deputy Director, Griffith Observatory.