

APPROVED
FEB 18 2009

REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 09-036

DATE February 18, 2009

**BOARD OF RECREATION
and PARK COMMISSIONERS**

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BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY – PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH ANDREW DALZELL DBA DIABLO SOUND FOR THE PROVISION OF PROFESSIONAL MUSIC SUPERVISION, SOUND ENGINEERING, COORDINATION, AND TECHNICAL SERVICES FOR SPECIALIZED EQUIPMENT USED FOR EXECUTING PUBLIC PROGRAMS AT GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY

R. Adams _____	J. Kolb _____
H. Fujita _____	F. Mok _____
S. Huntley _____	K. Regan _____
*V. Israel _____	M. Shull _____

[Signature]
General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve a proposed personal services contract, substantially in the form on file in the Board Office, with Andrew Dalzell, dba Diablo Sound, for a combined total of three (3) years and \$50,000 maximum expenditure, including reimbursable expenses, for specialized services in creating, mixing, and installing sound tracks for live programs and shows at Griffith Observatory, subject to approval of the Mayor and of the City Attorney as to form;
2. Find that, in accordance with Charter Section 371 (e)(2) and Section 10.15(a)(2) of the Los Angeles Administrative Code, that the services to be performed by Andrew Dalzell, dba Diablo Sound, require specialized technical expertise for which competitive bidding is neither practicable nor advantageous;
3. Find that, in accordance with Charter Section 372, that due to the relatively small amount of funds to be expended it is not reasonably practicable and in the City's best interest to solicit competitive proposals because the cost of doing so would outweigh any potential benefits, and that Andrew Dalzell, dba Diablo Sound, has demonstrated unique and specialized knowledge and experience to specifically provide the type of services required by Griffith Observatory;

REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

PG 2

NO. 09-036

4. Find pursuant to Charter Section 1022, that the Department does not have personnel available in its employ, with sufficient expertise to undertake these specialized professional tasks in a timely manner, and that these services can be performed more feasibly by a qualified independent contractor than by a City employee;
5. Direct the Board Secretary to transmit the proposed contract to the Mayor for approval in accordance with Executive Directive No. 3, and concurrently to the City Attorney for review and approval as to form; and,
6. Authorize the Board President and Secretary to execute the contract upon receipt of the necessary approvals.

SUMMARY:

Griffith Observatory has a 73-year tradition of providing exclusively live planetarium presentations for its visitors. This continued when the renovated and expanded Observatory opened in 2006 with upgraded exhibits incorporating sound elements, and two state-of-the-art theaters – the Samuel Oschin Planetarium and the Leonard Nimoy Event Horizon Theater. The Nimoy Theater utilizes an advanced surround sound system, and the new planetarium incorporates a unique 32.2 channel audio system. An audio technician with specific training and experience in development, mixing and installation of sound track elements for these exhibits and theater systems is a critical component of Observatory program success.

The Observatory staff is requesting approval of a personal service contract with Andrew Dalzell, dba Diablo Sound, to provide these audio services. Because of the ongoing nature of programming and show development in the Observatory theaters and exhibits, a contractual period of 36 months has been proposed to provide the Observatory with a stable, capable, and reliable source of sound track creation and implementation for programs including planetarium shows. The contractor will report directly to and act under the direction of Dr. Laura Danly, Curator of Griffith Observatory. The contractor will work with other key Observatory personnel on the coordination of music, and sound design for programs in the Observatory theaters and exhibit galleries. Further, this contractor had a short-term agreement in 2006, which proved successful for the Centered in the Universe planetarium show, the Observatory, and the City, as evidenced by the many positive comments received from the public, council offices, and many others.

The Personnel Department made a determination pursuant to Charter Section 1022 on December 31, 2008, that City classifications are unable to perform all the services required for the creation and installation of audio programming in the Observatory exhibits and theaters, and that Department staff does not have the necessary knowledge or expertise to provide audio engineering or musical scores for the specialized sound systems found at the Observatory. There are no current

REPORT OF THE GENERAL MANAGER

PG 3

NO. 09-036

classifications for which the essential function is to produce sound effects by calibrating equipment or mixing sound from original compositions and/or a library of music, or any combination thereof. The requirement for an audio engineer and sound designer with specific training in these unique requirements of the Observatory's theater and exhibit sound systems is critical to maintaining the integrity and quality of programming. These skills are beyond City staff's abilities and experience; therefore it is necessary to secure these services through a personal services contract.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

Funding for this contract is currently provided in Fund 302, Department 88, Account 3040, Activity Code 7800. However, services will be utilized solely at the Discretion of the Department and as subject to funding availability.

This report was prepared by Elizabeth N. Gutiérrez, Management Analyst II, and Dr. Laura Danly, Curator of Griffith Observatory.