

APPROVED

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

SEP 23 2010

NO. 10-250

DATE September 23, 2010

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 OF \$175,000 TO SUPPORT THE GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY SCHOOL VISIT PROGRAM IN SCHOOL YEAR 2010-2011

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



 General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS:

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 2010-11 school year;
2. Approve a proposed Gift Agreement, substantially in the form on file in the Board Office, subject to the approval of the Mayor and of the City Attorney as to form;
3. Authorize and direct the Department's Chief Accounting Employee to deposit the funds in the existing special account in Fund 302, Department 89, Account 843M (Observatory School Program) upon receipt of the funds from FOTO, pursuant to the proposed Gift Agreement;
4. Direct the Board Secretary to transmittal 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, subject to the necessary approvals.

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5. Authorize the Board President and Secretary to execute the Gift Agreement, subject to the necessary approvals.

SUMMARY:

For a third year, 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 continue FOTO's support for the Observatory School Visit Program; this gift would support the program for the 2010-11 school year.

The Griffith Observatory School Visit Program serves fifth-grade students from across the region, with more than half 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. It did so again for the 2009-10 school year. FOTO is continuing to seek a multi-year private sponsor for the program.

The Gift funds are to be deposited into an existing account in Fund 302, Department 89, Account 843M (Observatory School Program) 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 continue to 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 2010-11 school year. Without the funds contributed by FOTO, the Griffith Observatory School Visit Program would have been cancelled for the 2008-09, 2009-10, and 2010-11 school years.

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