

**APPROVED**  
OCT 05 2011

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 11-283

DATE October 5, 2011

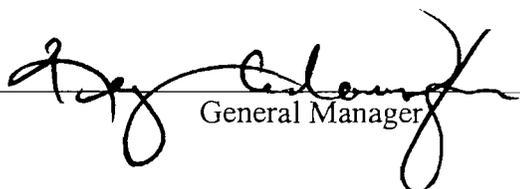
BOARD OF RECREATION  
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

C.D. 4

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY – DONATION OF \$175,000 FROM FRIENDS OF THE OBSERVATORY (FOTO) TO SUPPORT THE GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY SCHOOL PROGRAM IN SCHOOL YEAR 2011-2012

|                  |                   |
|------------------|-------------------|
| R. Adams _____   | K. Regan _____    |
| H. Fujita _____  | M. Shull _____    |
| *V. Israel _____ | N. Williams _____ |

  
General Manager

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Accept with gratitude, a donation from Friends Of The Observatory (FOTO) of \$175,000 to support the Griffith Observatory School Program during the 2011-12 school year; and,
2. Authorize and direct the Department's Chief Accounting Employee to deposit the funds in the existing special account Fund 302, Department 89, Account 843M (Observatory School Program) upon receipt of the funds from FOTO.

SUMMARY:

For a fourth year, FOTO has generously agreed to donate \$175,000 to Griffith Observatory, located at 2800 East Observatory Road, Los Angeles, California 90027. The donation is intended to continue FOTO's support for the Griffith Observatory School Program through the 2011-12 school year.

The Griffith Observatory School 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 in FY 2008-09, the Observatory sought FOTO's assistance in supporting the continuation of the Griffith Observatory School Program for the 2008-09 school year. It did so again for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 school years. FOTO is continuing to seek a multi-year private sponsor for the program.

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The donation funds will be deposited into the existing interest-bearing account in Fund 302, Department 89, Account 843M (Observatory School Program) and used solely and exclusively for costs associated with the implementation of the Griffith Observatory School 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 donation 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 2011-12 school year. Without the funds contributed by FOTO, the Griffith Observatory School Program would have been cancelled for the 2008-09, 2009-10, 2010-11, and 2011-12 school years.

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