



Memorandum

TO: PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE

FROM: MICHAEL OGILVIE

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: May 30, 2019

Council District: District 3

**SUBJECT: Design Development Proposal for Artistic Enhancements for Pellier Park
landscape design by artist Nori Sato.**

RECOMMENDATION:

Review and take action on the Design Development Proposal for Artistic Enhancement by artist Nori Sato for aesthetic strategies contributing to the Pellier Park landscape design by SWA Group.

DATE OF ARTIST SELECTION: December 19, 2017

DATE OF CONCEPT APPROVAL: February 5, 2019

ARTWORK BUDGET: \$50,000.

LOCATION: Pellier Park.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Pellier Park is a historic park and is listed as a registered California Historical Landmark. The park was originally dedicated in May 1977 as part of San José 200th birthday year as a tribute to the City and to the success of Louis Pellier's French prune that spurred the prune industry in this region. The park, a pie shape piece of land, was the location of Pellier's nursery - City Gardens - established in October of 1850 with the help of his brothers Pierre and Jean, who came from France later with the French prune-la petite prune d'Agen during the winter of 1856-57.

This park, located within the boundaries of the original Pellier nursery, was a gift to the city. With the help of the Mountain Charlie chapter of E Clampus Vitus ("the Clampers), a local volunteer organization provided labor and coordinated donors to contribute to the funding and construction of the new park.

In 1998 the Redevelopment Agency worked with Parks and Recreation Commission, the Historic Landmarks Commission, and community members on concepts for re-design of the existing park site that had been closed since the 1980s. On August 16, 2005, the City Council adopted resolution authorizing the City Manager to negotiate and execute a Turnkey Parkland Agreement with City Heights LLC, in conjunction with Barry Swenson Builder, to complete the renovation of Pellier Park. With the construction of City Heights and the subsequent realignment of Julian Street, renovation of the park was put on hold. Now, with the completion of the Julian Street alignment, PRNS is advancing the renovation of the park and chose SWA Group as the prime consultant on the project. While there is no specific funding for artworks within the park, artist Norie Sato was selected to collaborate with SWA Group to

develop alternatives and a final master plan that integrates artistic strategies and themes within the project. In addition, the team was tasked with including aspects from the previous park, including donor and historic plaques and gates.

Based on historical research, site analysis, conversations with key stakeholders, and an initial public meeting to determine programmatic preferences, the design team developed three conceptual approaches. Each concept emphasized different programmatic needs and approaches. Concept #1, the “Plum-scape” was based on the idea of a plum shape, paving reminiscent of agricultural planting rows, and a central open space. It has a soft, landscaped appearance and includes elements that tell stories of the history, the Clampers, and previous park donors. Scheme #2 the” Plum as Object” presented a dynamic and iconic plum-shaped elevated form on which to stand, sit and enjoy the park. Approach #3,” Storytelling Rooms” created three distinct spaces that, from above, is organized after agricultural landscapes. All schemes celebrate the history of the park by allowing for the True Mark property line wall to be developed as a platform for storytelling, integrating the historic Clamper plaques, donor plaques, and future connections.

In the second public meeting, and with a follow-up on line survey, community members were asked to indicate their preferences between the three schemes. Based on a quantitative and qualitative analysis of voting and community comments, Concept #1, “Plum-scape” was selected for further development.

Responding to community comments, the design development has evolved to emphasize the prune-shaped site plan as viewed from above, green space was increased, flexible seating and moveable lounge chairs included to pilot use of the space, a central community table designed set within a grove of flowering trees accommodates an intimate gathering place for neighbors to come together, and feature lighting is included with custom lights references the history of “agricultural grafting” and are concentrated at the center of the park to limit impact on residents of City Heights.

With the important history of Pellier Park the wall at the True Mark property line has been developed as a “story telling wall.” The design of the wall is inspired by the espalier tradition, the “branching” providing a framework for the 22 original donor plaques gifted by the Clampers in 1977, as well as additional plaques that will be developed to provide an expanded history of the Pellier family, the history of agriculture in the valley, and memories of prunes shared by the community. With so many rich stories to be told, the design team selected an equally dynamic architectural material, “Sensitile,” a fine concrete mix embedded with light conducting channels and formed into tiles that provide transparency and a shimmer in response to light, movement and shadows. The material is proposed in a signature purple color that will identify Pellier Park as iconic and distinct from other parks in the vicinity.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

The Artist Selection Panel was a diverse group of stakeholders representing the local community, local and regional artists and arts professionals as follows:

Richard Deutsch	Artist
Dianna Pumpelly-Bates	Artist and Community Stakeholder
Rick Holden	Friends of Levitt Pavilion, Chair and Community Stakeholder
Trena Noval	Artist

Haley Waterson

CMG Landscape Architecture, Project Manager

Also in attendance in an advisory role was Willett Moss, Partner at CMG Landscape Architecture.

Public meetings held in conjunction with this project:

<u>Date</u>	<u>What</u>	<u>Purpose</u>	<u>Location</u>	<u>Convener</u>
10/6/16	Ad-Hoc Committee Meeting	Educational outreach regarding integrating artists into design process	City Heights	Council Office
5/25/17	Community Meeting	Introduce potential for artist collaboration.	City Heights	PRNS/SJPA
8/9/17	Community Meeting	Report on progress to community	City Heights	PRNS/SJPA
2/6/18	PAC Meeting	Update on artist selection	City Hall	SJPA
5/3/18	Ad Hoc Meeting	Update on project status.	City Heights	Council Office
9/17/18	Community Meeting	Introduce the collaborative design team to community and gather input	Tabard Theatre	PRNS/SJPA
12/13/18	Community Meeting	Introduce conceptual directions for community feedback.	City Heights	PRNS/SJPA
2/5/19	PAC Meeting	Review of Schematic Design	City Hall	SJPA
4/10/19	Community Meeting	Review of Design Development	City Hall	PRNS/SJPA
5/15/19	Historic Landmarks Committee	Design Review	City Hall	PRNS

/s/

MICHAEL OGILVIE
Public Art Director