

APPROVED
3-02-2016

BOARD OF RECREATION
& PARK COMMISSIONERS

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 16-060

DATE March 02, 2016

C.D. 4

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY – DONATION FROM FRIENDS OF THE OBSERVATORY TO SUPPORT THE GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY SCHOOL PROGRAM IN SCHOOL YEAR 2015-2016

R. Barajas
H. Fujita
* V. Israel



K. Regan _____
N. Williams _____


General Manager

Approved

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATIONS:

That the Board:

1. Accept, with gratitude, a donation from Friends Of The Observatory (FOTO) of \$175,000.00 to support the Griffith Observatory School Program during the 2015-16 school year and, direct that appropriate recognition be given to FOTO; and,
2. Direct the Department's Chief Accounting Employee to deposit the funds in the existing special account in Fund 302, Department 89, Account 89843M (Observatory School Program) upon receipt of the funds from FOTO.

SUMMARY:

For an eighth (8th) year, FOTO has generously agreed to donate One Hundred Seventy-Five Thousand Dollars (\$175,000.00) to the Griffith Observatory (the Observatory), located at 2800 East Observatory Road, Los Angeles, California 90027. The money for this donation was granted to Friends Of The Observatory by Burberry Limited as part of a partnership between Burberry Limited, Friends Of The Observatory, and the Department of Recreation and Parks (RAP). The donation is intended to continue FOTO's support for the Observatory School Program through the 2015-16 school year.

The Griffith Observatory School Program serves fifth (5th) grade students from across the region, with roughly half coming from the Los Angeles Unified School District. Due to significant reductions in the Observatory's staffing and expense budgets in Fiscal Year 2008-09, the Observatory sought FOTO's assistance in supporting the continuation of the Griffith

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Observatory School Program for the 2008-09 school year. FOTO provided support again for the 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, and 2014-15 school years. FOTO is continuing to seek a multi-year private sponsor for the program.

The donation funds will be deposited into the existing interest-bearing account in Fund 302, Department 89, Account 89843M (Observatory School Program) and used solely and exclusively for costs associated with the implementation of the Griffith Observatory School Program including reimbursements for part-time staffing, program expenses, and other related activities. RAP 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 RAP's General Fund, as the General Fund would not have been used for the program in the 2015-16 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, 2011-12, 2012-13, 2013-14, 2014-15, and 2015-16 school years.

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