

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 01-302

DATE August 8, 2001

CD _____

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL APPLICATION FOR PRESERVE L.A. GRANT FUNDING

J. Combs _____
*T. Coroalles _____
J. Duggan _____
H. Fujita _____

J. Kolb _____
M. Tamuri _____
M. Matthews _____

Margie Matthews for eo

General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board approve and direct staff to prepare and submit an additional proposal to the Getty Grant Program to secure funding to develop an historical report for the Exposition Rose Garden. The deadline for submittal is August 20, 2001.

SUMMARY:

Preserve L.A. is a three-year program, launched in 2000 by the Getty Grant Program, to fund efforts to conserve the architectural heritage of Los Angeles. The program supports two types of grants: *Planning Grants* and *Project Implementation Grants*. *Planning Grants* will provide up to \$75,000 for research, documentation, and analysis of preservation needs, and can also be utilized for development of a conservation plan. *Project Implementation Grants* will provide up to \$250,000 for the actual conservation of an historic structure or site.

The Department proposes to submit one additional *Planning Grant* proposal in order to secure funding to develop an historical structure report for the Exposition Rose Garden. This report will provide the foundation to facilitate the appropriate renovation and improvements needed by the Exposition Rose Garden and will assist in the development of educational programs and exhibits to further the public's knowledge of the Rose Garden as one of the Department's significant historical resources.

The Exposition Rose Garden is considered to be historic and culturally significant. It meets preliminary eligibility

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requirements for consideration of funding.

Following is general information on the Exposition Rose Garden:

The Exposition Rose Garden has been operated by the Department of Recreation and Parks since 1928. Between 1913 and 1920, it was referred to as a sunken garden, which was a large field of bermuda grass with a few trees and walkways that met in a central circle. From 1926 to 1928, it was transformed into its present appearance when, under the direction of Rotarians George C. Robinson and Fred H. Howard, a consultant for the American Rose Society, the City's Parks Department embarked on a project to create the largest and most magnificent public rose garden in the United States.

When the Rose Garden opened in April 1928, it had 15,793 bushes, all donated by local nurseries, in full bloom. Today, the site is approximately 7 acres in size and has about 7,000 rose bushes. Space is set aside each year for the Annual All-American Rose Selections, as the Rose Garden is one of the nationwide recipients of these new cultivars.

Successful award of the *Planning Grant* will provide the Exposition Rose Garden with an Historic Survey report to help guide future conservation efforts, as well as expansion of educational programs. In addition, utilization of the report as a resource tool may aid in compliance with various agencies which provide funding for historic sites.

Prepared by Mark Mariscal.