

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 03-40

DATE: February 5, 2003

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BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF PERSONAL SERVICE AGREEMENT WITH DR. JAMES P. KALLUSKY TO CONDUCT AN 18-MONTH PHASE TWO EVALUATION OF THE CLEAN AND SAFE SPACES (CLASS) PROGRAM

J. Combs _____ H. Fujita _____
*A. Coroalles _____ J. Kolb _____
J. Duggan _____ B. Lukehart _____


General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve the personal services agreement with Dr. James P. Kallusky to continue the evaluation of the Clean and Safe Space (CLASS) Program and its impact on youth, families and targeted communities. The term of the contract will be March 1, 2003 to August 31, 2004, for a cost not to exceed \$36,000.
2. Find that the services to be provided by Dr. James P. Kallusky are of a temporary, professional nature, and can be provided more feasibly and economically by a contractor than by City employees, and that pursuant to Charter Section 371 (e) (2), the services to be performed are of an expert, professional and/or technical nature and are of a temporary and occasional character such that competitive bidding would not be practicable or advantageous.
3. Find Dr. James P. Kallusky uniquely qualified to provide the services as evaluator due to his involvement in evaluating the CLASS Parks Program from June 1, 2001 through November 30, 2002 (through American Humanics, Inc. contract approved by the Board on June 6, 2001, Board Report 01-207); his recognized work in the field of youth development; and his role as Executive Director of Youth Agency Administrative Studies at California State University Los Angeles.
4. Direct the Board Secretary to transmit the proposed Agreement to the Mayor in accordance with Executive Directive 16, concurrently to the City Attorney for review as to form, and upon Mayor's and City Attorney's approval, authorize the President and Secretary of the Board to execute the Agreement.

SUMMARY:

Evaluation is a critical component of the CLASS Parks Program. Evaluation measures the impact that CLASS has on the participants and communities it serves and measures the degree to which CLASS is achieving its stated goals and objectives. Information gathered from the evaluation process is used to identify what is working in the CLASS Parks program so that those areas can be supported and enhanced and modifications or extractions can be made in areas that are deficient. Modifying the program through evaluation insures that CLASS is providing optimal programming that meets the critical needs of the community today, as well as in the long term.

The first evaluation of CLASS, conducted by American Humanics, Inc., was recently completed and the report has prompted improvements in the CLASS program. The program needed an operational framework for youth development and has now incorporated a state-of-the-art youth development model; CLASS also needed specific programming for youth and has subsequently added two substantial programming elements - motivation and access to post-secondary education, and parental involvement. CLASS also stabilized successful aspects of the program by bolstering those components, which included placing importance on hiring caring adults, improving facilities, maintaining current hours of operation, and focusing on empowering youth. CLASS also learned that parents care about the well being of the CLASS Parks program and are willing to do their part to support the program.

CLASS will benefit by conducting a second phase of evaluation. The first evaluation phase focused on youth and families. The second 18-month evaluation will continue to monitor youth and families with an added focus on staff. This phase will include the utilization of the ArcView Graphic Information System (GIS). This system, proven effective for spatial analysis and urban planning matters, will allow an identification and mapping of all City recreation facilities; an overlay of appropriate 2000 Census information on target populations, median income, ethnicity, etc., and Los Angeles Police Department crime statistics. The mapping will be accompanied by a detailed analysis providing CLASS Parks with critical information pertinent to expansion or reduction of program offerings.

The first phase evaluation contract with American Humanics expired in November 2002 and the corporation was dissolved in December 2002. Because Dr. James P. Kallusky was the lead evaluator with American Humanics, Inc., Department staff recommends entering into a contract with Dr. James Kallusky, as an individual, to ensure continuity in the next phase of evaluation. Executive staff was pleased with the thoroughness of the evaluation and the soundness of the recommendations. Dr. Kallusky has spent 12 years developing, implementing, directing, and researching programs similar to CLASS. He has earned a strong reputation in the areas of underserved youth and disenfranchised communities. Dr. Kallusky is the Director of Youth Agency Administration Studies at California State University, Los Angeles, and has the knowledge and tools to provide an excellent evaluation component for the CLASS Parks program.

Sufficient funds are available in the CLASS account 304 to cover this contract.

This report was prepared by Gary Baer.