

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 03-354

DATE November 5 2003

C.D. \_\_\_\_\_

BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: AUTHORIZE THE GENERAL MANAGER TO SUBMIT A GRANT APPLICATION TO THE NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION FOR LA OLÉ!, A NEW PROGRAM FOR THE CABRILLO MARINE AQUARIUM EXPANSION

J. Combs \_\_\_\_\_  
\*A. Corrales \_\_\_\_\_  
L. Barth \_\_\_\_\_  
H. Fujita \_\_\_\_\_

J. Kolb \_\_\_\_\_  
B. Lukehart \_\_\_\_\_  
R. Reyes \_\_\_\_\_

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
General Manager

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATION:

It is recommended that the Board:

1. Approve the submission of a grant proposal, for \$599,466 for Cabrillo Marine Aquarium's proposed LA OLÉ! (Los Angeles Ocean Learning Experiences) program to be developed and piloted during fiscal years 2005-2007 in the facility expansion under National Science Foundation Informal Science Education grant program, with matching funds from the City of Los Angeles of \$471,723 in current support (includes departmental and city overhead) and \$386,231 in new facility support, subject to approval of the Mayor and City Council; and
2. Direct the Board Secretary to transmit the grant proposal to the Mayor and City Council for approval of submission under the Informal Science Education program, administered by the National Science Foundation; and
3. Request that the City Council authorize the Department to execute the grant award so long as the grant award contains all binding elements in the approved grant application; and
4. Authorize the General Manager, after necessary approvals to represent the City and execute any resulting grant agreements, and any subsequent amendments, thereto, pursuant to Administrative Code Section 14.8, et seq., as may be amended on behalf of the City, subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney.

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### SUMMARY:

Cabrillo Marine Aquarium (CMA) is developing LA OLÉ! (Los Angeles Ocean Learning Experiences), a pilot program to engage youth and families underrepresented in the sciences in inquiry-based science investigations on the ocean environment in CMA's new Exploration Center and Aquatic Nursery.

The three-year pilot program will develop, test, and evaluate 1) community partnership methods to recruit the intended audiences; 2) two levels (beginning/limited English and intermediate) of activity guides to enhance audience use of the exhibits and seashore for self-guided and facilitated investigation; 3) training methods for program assistants; and 4) program design.

In the Exploration Center, visitors will observe, measure, and test such topics as the properties of sand, water and buoyancy, behavior of animals, population characteristics of seashore animals, and watershed issues. The Aquatic Nursery investigates life stages of ocean animals, raising animals for food, conservation, and research, water quality and animal husbandry techniques, and the process of research.

Program partners, who will help draw intended audiences and evaluate the curriculum, include COSEE-West (University of California Los Angeles/University of Southern California), the Port of Los Angeles, the City of Los Angeles CLASS recreation program, Friends of Cabrillo Marine Aquarium, and certain ethnic-based community groups.

Participants (20,000 to 40,000 annually) will come primarily from the predominantly low-income, heavily immigrant neighborhoods located along the Los Angeles River and Dominguez Channel watersheds that empty to the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbors, at the edge of which CMA is located. Multiple visits, volunteer and internship positions, and research internships in the laboratory and on the shore will be possible for some. Teen clubs from CLASS parks (City of Los Angeles Department of Recreation and Parks) and families from community-based organizations will come on weekends, Boys and Girls Clubs after school, and Los Angeles Unified School District school classes from districts H, J, I, and K on weekday mornings.

The project's intellectual merits are 1) to enable early and continuing learners to engage in basic scientific investigation of the properties of materials, organisms, and their environments; 2) to promote the relevance and potential of science to visitors' own lives, and 3) and to make clear the importance of the ocean environment to visitor's lives.

LA OLÉ's broader impacts will be to 1) demonstrate that exhibits can enable scientific investigation by early and intermediate learners and provide model materials and curricula; 2) model methods of collaboration with community groups and centers as well as formal educational systems to further science education; and 3) reach much larger audiences via online

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media, multistate educator and museum/public aquarium networks, and replication at other informal sciences centers and public aquariums.

The National Science Foundation Informal Science Education program will fund no more than two-thirds of any project to promote leveraging additional support. This match requirement will be more than adequately met through the following contributions to the implementation of LA OLE!, not counting much of the cost of transportation to be provided by school and community participants themselves:

	<u>Total</u>	FY 05 <u>Year 1</u>	FY 06 <u>Year 2</u>	FY 07 <u>Year 3</u>
NSF-ISE	\$599,476	\$208,470	210,843	180,153
LA City				
Current CMA support	\$471,723	\$185,633	146,640	139,450
New facility support	\$386,231	\$133,811	126,210	126,210
CLASS Parks Program	\$119,728	\$37,711	34,446	47,571
FRIENDS of CMA				
Grant support	\$132,671	\$18,833	53,698	60,140
Volunteer Services (in-kind)	\$145,361	\$39,002	54,348	52,011
Port of Los Angeles				
Co-PI advisory services (in-kind)	\$3,000	\$1,000	1,000	1,000
COSEE-West (UCLA/USC)				
Advisory services (in-kind)	\$3,000	\$1,000	1,000	1,000
	<u>\$1,860,427</u>	<u>\$624,707</u>	<u>\$628,185</u>	<u>\$607,535</u>

If the grant is awarded, it will give the City of Los Angeles and the Recreation and Parks Department recognition as being a national leader in joining science, environmental awareness, and recreation for the benefit of children and families of Los Angeles and beyond. If it does not succeed in the rigorous competition for National Science Foundation funding, it will still have the potential for support from many additional public and private sources.

Prepared by Susanne Lawrenz-Miller, Director, Cabrillo Marine Aquarium.