

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 04-11

DATE January 7, 2004

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BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: APPROVAL OF A GRANT FROM THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DOE) TO GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF NEW EXHIBITS AND EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

\*G. Stigile AS  
B. Lukehart \_\_\_\_\_  
H. Fujita \_\_\_\_\_

J. Kolb \_\_\_\_\_  
F. Mok \_\_\_\_\_  
L. Barth \_\_\_\_\_

  
General Manager

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Accept a grant of \$149,035 from the U. S. Department of Education, subject to approval of the Mayor and the City Council, to provide support for development of new exhibits and educational programs at Griffith Observatory; and,
2. Direct staff to transmit to the Mayor and the City Council, and to the City Attorney, the award acceptance and corresponding grant agreement; and,
3. Authorize the General Manager, subsequent to necessary approvals, to execute the corresponding grant agreement, and any subsequent amendments thereto, pursuant to Administrative Code Section 14.6 et seq as may be amended, on behalf of the City, subject to approval as to form by the City Attorney.

SUMMARY:

In February 2003, the U.S. Congress approved the FY 2003 Federal Budget, which included a special congressionally-designated budget line item allocation in the Department of Education's (DOE) FY 2003 appropriation designating \$149,035 for "Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles to improve educational programs and exhibits on the solar universe." The Observatory was then required to file a grant request to secure the allocated funds in early September 2003. In accordance with Administrative Code Section 14.6, the Mayor and the City Council were apprized of application by transmittal letter on October 2, 2003. The DOE notified the Observatory later in October that the grant application had been approved, and then provided forms necessary for funds to be transferred to the Observatory.

The bulk of this DOE grant funding will support the Observatory's purchase of selected new exhibits (including a new Cloud Chamber), renovation of existing exhibits (including the Spark Chamber), and formulation of multimedia exhibit content for other new exhibits. The remainder of this grant funding will provide for development and/or purchase of equipment (new solar telescope) and educational materials to support the special school programs at the Griffith Observatory Satellite (and later the Observatory's ongoing Traveling Telescope Program).

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The funds provided by this grant support an important part of the overall development of Griffith Observatory's spectacular new exhibit program, most of which will be funded by FOTO.

Report prepared by Dr. E. C. Krupp, Observatory Director