



DATE: July 2, 2019

TO: Mayor and City Council

FROM: Director of Public Works

SUBJECT: Adopt a Resolution to Appropriate \$30,000 Towards Public Heritage Art and Interpretive Signage and Receive an Update on Hayward Heritage Plaza Construction

RECOMMENDATION

That the Council adopts a resolution (Attachment II) to appropriate \$30,000 towards public heritage art and interpretive signage and receives an update on Hayward Heritage Plaza construction.

SUMMARY

The Heritage Plaza across from the Main Library is expected to be complete by September 2019. The contractor has completed deconstruction and is now working on underground utilities, sidewalk, and other park signs and amenities. The purpose of this report is to: 1) obtain approval for the appropriation of \$30,000 for public heritage features, art and interpretive signage on the Plaza; 2) seek Council confirmation on the name Hayward Heritage Plaza; and 3) seek Council feedback on a revised framework and process for creating heritage features in the Plaza based on community feedback.

BACKGROUND

On May 26, 2015, the Council approved the plans for the Measure C-funded 21st Century Library and Community Learning Center and Heritage Plaza project. On September 15, 2015, the City entered into an agreement with T.B. Penick & Sons, Inc., for construction for a not-to-exceed amount of \$52,550,000. Phase 1 of the project, construction of the new Main Library, began on January 4, 2016. On May 14, 2019, Council accepted a \$398,516 grant from the State to reimburse construction costs related to the Heritage Plaza.

Phase 2 of the project began in October 2018 and included deconstruction of the old main library and construction of the Heritage Plaza. The Heritage Plaza encompasses a full city block in downtown Hayward, which is approximately the size of San Francisco's Union Square. Staff presented concepts for the Plaza design to Council on November 9, 2010 and on July 16, 2013, and a more detailed design, on October 18, 2014.

Staff last updated Council on the design at a July 10, 2018 work session¹. Several members of the public and Council provided comments, in particular, feedback related to the historic elements of the plaza.

The revised design for the Hayward Heritage Plaza will include the following features, which are shown in the attached design (Attachment III):

- *Gathering & Event Spaces* – The Plaza will include a 25,000-square foot central event lawn and an 11,000-square foot paved plaza along C Street. These two spaces will have a combined event capacity of nearly 4,000 people. An elevated platform and arbor at the edge of the event lawn will include electrical access for cultural events, musical performances and other civic gatherings.
- *Arboretum* - The Plaza is home to over forty species of rare and mature trees. The trees, some of which are over one-hundred years old, will be preserved in the plaza restoration. Placards identifying the notable trees will be installed along meandering “arboretum walk” paths on either side of the central event lawn.
- *Children’s Garden* – The Plaza will include a 2,150-square foot garden on the corner of C Street and Watkins Street, featuring nature-inspired exploration structures for young children.
- *Rainwater Catchment System* – The Plaza will function as a rainwater catchment and underground rainwater storage and filtration system. The system will collect and reuse up to 200,000 gallons of rainwater annually, which will be treated and reused for irrigation and graywater uses in the new library building and plaza.

DISCUSSION

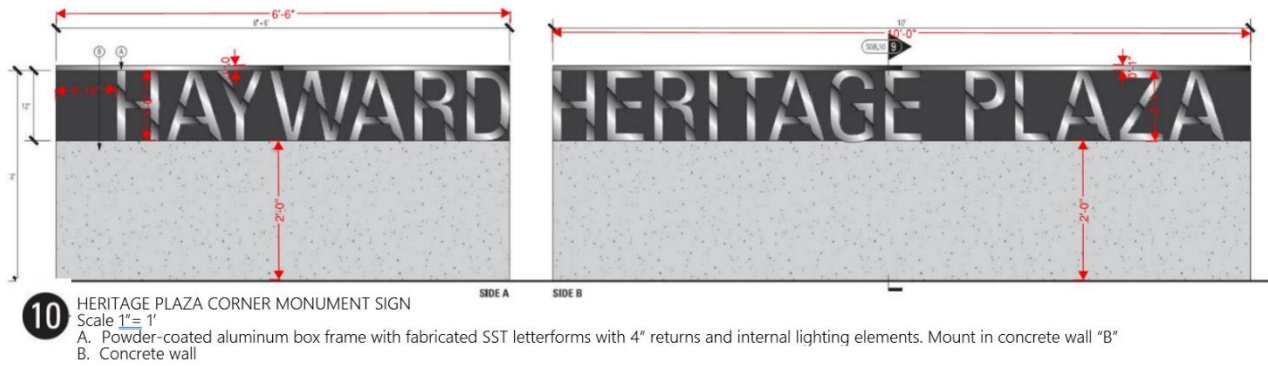
Construction Update

The contractor has completed all deconstruction activities at the plaza site. The contractor has also completed the rainwater catchment cistern construction and is now working on underground utilities, curb, gutter, sidewalk and foundations, for the bunya-bunya tree trellis and other park signs and amenities. Construction is expected to be complete by September 2019.

Plaza Name

The plaza construction project plans include a sign with twelve-inch tall letters, similar to the signage at the new library as shown below. The sign identifies the site as the “HAYWARD HERITAGE PLAZA”. Staff is requesting Council confirmation of this name prior to fabrication and installation of the sign.

¹ <https://hayward.legistar.com/LegislationDetail.aspx?ID=3547621&GUID=9DC47016-8DA6-49FC-86E9-CC207FB2B618&Options=&Search=>



Heritage Features

The July 2018 Council work session included a discussion of the Plaza’s planned heritage features. During that discussion, Council and community members expressed support for a few new elements and concerns with some of the existing elements. Over the past eight months staff worked with community groups to revisit the features. This section proposes a revised framework and process for creating the heritage features.

Staff held discussions with the Hayward Area Historical Society (HAHS), Library Commission, representatives from local Indigenous Groups, representatives of the Eden Area Japanese-American Citizens League, and the Hayward Arts Council. Based on these discussions, staff proposes and requests funding for three new heritage elements for the plaza. These are proposed within the recognition and context of the Library Building’s dedication to César Chávez.

1. A detailed memorial sign and interpretive art piece marking the location on Watkins Street where local Japanese-Americans boarded buses for detention centers in 1942. The specific location for this element has been identified and will be surrounded by Japanese-style plantings. Representatives of the Eden Area Japanese-American Citizens League have created draft content for the memorial sign. Staff’s goal is to include the memorial sign with the opening of the park and to work with the community group towards the creation of an interpretive art piece over the coming year.
2. An interpretive art piece and sign honoring the native Yrgin, an Ohlone tribelet, and other local Indigenous Peoples. Staff has been working with representatives from Indigenous Groups, as well as history faculty at Chabot Community College. The group has identified a potential Indigenous artist and is working towards the creation of an interpretive art piece and language for a sign over the coming year.
3. An interpretive art piece and sign to commemorative the history and cultural heritage of Russell City. This will be placed in a location that will be prominent during the annual Russell City Blues Festival. Staff has recently begun conversations with the HAHS to identify the appropriate group to oversee the creation of an art piece and sign.

In addition to the elements above, staff will continue to work with the HAHS to draft language and images for a potential historic sign that depicts the history of the downtown area, including Guillermo Castro's home. Staff will return to Council at a future date to review the proposed content and location of this sign.

Finally, staff has identified alternative locations for two historic pieces that were in the old library plaza, but that community members did not feel were a good fit for the vision and intent of the new plaza. The Charles Heyer Fountain will be donated to the HAHS for future display and the statue of Narciso Durán, a Franciscan Friar, will be donated to Mission San Jose via a long term loan agreement.

ECONOMIC IMPACT

The Heritage Plaza restoration project will be a significant asset for residents and visitors in downtown Hayward, a rapidly developing area for major new housing and other urban uses, where the need for outdoor community gathering spaces, recreation, and celebration activities is projected to grow significantly in the coming years.

FISCAL IMPACT

The proposed change to the project will require an additional \$30,000 in funding not included in the City's FY 2020 Operating or Capital budgets. Staff requests that Council appropriate \$30,000 from the General Fund Measure C fund to fund this appropriation.

STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

The Heritage Plaza restoration project supports the Complete Communities Strategic Initiative. The purpose of the Complete Communities initiative is to create and support structures, services, and amenities to provide inclusive and equitable access with the goal of becoming a thriving and promising place to live, work and play for all. This item supports the following goal and objective:

Goal 1: Improve quality of life for residents, business owners, and community members in all Hayward neighborhoods.

Objective 1: Foster a sense of place and support neighborhood pride.

SUSTAINABILITY FEATURES

As discussed above, the Heritage Plaza will feature a water catchment and storage system. This system is an important component of the new library's environmental sustainability plan and is required to enable the project to achieve LEED Platinum eligible status.

NEXT STEPS

If Council adopts the attached resolution appropriating funding towards the art, heritage, and interpretive features discussed above, staff will continue to work with the community groups listed above to run public art selection processes to create public heritage art and to create and vet language for memorial signs.

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Recommended by: Alex Ameri, Director of Public Works

Approved by:



Kelly McAdoo, City Manager