

CHABOT-LAS POSITAS COMMUNITY COLLEGE DISTRICT

April 20, 2021

Agenda Item: 5.4

Subject: Approval of Aaron De La Cruz Mural Project, Chabot Las-Positas Community College District, Las Positas College

Background: In 2007, funds from the sale of a District-owned property in Castro Valley, known as the “Nike site,” were allocated by the Chabot-Las Positas Community College District Board of Trustees to the Colleges and District Office for the purpose of acquiring public art. In December 2010, the Art on Campus Program and Committee was established at Chabot-Las Positas College District, Las Positas College. The committee did extensive research and work to identify possible locations on campus and select artwork to purchase utilizing these funds. In 2013 and 2014, the “Essence of Athletic Movement” banners and the Fletcher Benton “Folded Circle Ring and L” sculpture were the first two acquisitions that were purchased and installed by 2016.

After a hiatus, the Las Positas College Council re-started the Art on Campus Task Force in 2019. The Task Force convened and mapped out a plan to recommence the work, move forward additional acquisitions and projects, and build a sustained commitment to art at Las Positas College. The Task Force decided to focus on artwork of various size and scope, including a strong desire for one or more murals. Task Force members researched and identified several local Bay area muralists, reviewed their prior work, and decided to pursue Aaron De La Cruz for a commissioned mural. The Task Force also identified several possible locations for the mural.

Since then, the Task Force has vetted this selection through the Facilities and Sustainability Committee and Executive Facilities Committee, with approval received to move forward. Aaron De La Cruz has been contacted and enthusiastically expressed his interest in completing a mural project for Las Positas College. He is a grateful product of the California Community College system. After reviewing photos of the various possible locations, he identified Building 1600 as the best location for his work, and this choice was also approved by the Executive Facilities Committee. Appendix A provides a photograph of the proposed location, and Appendix B provides further specific details.

As Chair of the Art on Campus Task Force, the Dean of Arts and Humanities was requested to submit the mural project for Board of Trustees review and approval. Details regarding the artist, location, conceptual design, estimated timeline, prep and maintenance, cost, and funding source are attached in the Aaron De La Cruz LPC Mural Project Proposal. Examples of the artist’s prior work are included in Appendix B to serve as representative of the type of final product the artist will deliver.

Board Item 5.4
April 20, 2021
Page 2

Upon approval, the artist will commence the design phase for the mural, working with the Art on Campus Task Force. The Dean will also work closely with Maintenance and Operations and Campus Safety regarding the artist safely accessing the location and working on campus. The estimated cost for the mural project is not to exceed \$100,000 inclusive of the design, prep, installation, supplies and equipment. Appendix B provides further details regarding aspects that will contribute to the final cost.

Recommended Action: That the Board of Trustees approve the proposed Aaron De La Cruz Mural Project, Chabot-Las Positas Community College District, Las Positas College for an amount not to exceed \$100,000. It is further recommended that the Board authorize the Vice Chancellor of Business Services to execute the agreement on behalf of the District.

Funding Source: Nike Site Funds (FUND 621001), Las Positas College allocation.

Submitted: Jonah R. Nicholas /Date

Approved: Ronald P. Gerhard/Date

_____ APPROVED

_____ DISAPPROVED

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