

SAN FRANCISCO HISTORIC PRESERVATION COMMISSION



Meeting Minutes

Commission Chambers, Room 400
City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place
San Francisco, CA 94102-4689

Wednesday, April 3, 2019
12:00 p.m.
Architectural Review Committee
Meeting

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Black, Pearlman
COMMISSIONER ABSENT: Hyland

THE MEETING WAS CALLED TO ORDER BY COMMISSIONER PEARLMAN AT 12:01 PM

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Julie Flynn, Tim Frye – Preservation Officer, Jonas P. Ionin – Commission Secretary

SPEAKER KEY:

- + indicates a speaker in support of an item;
- indicates a speaker in opposition to an item; and
- = indicates a neutral speaker or a speaker who did not indicate support or opposition.

A. COMMITTEE MATTERS

1. Committee Comments & Questions

None

B. REGULAR

2. [2016-014964CWP](#) (J. FLYNN: (415) 575-9057)
CIVIC CENTER COMMONS EXPLORATORIUM TEMPORARY ART PROJECT AT SFPL– The Project is located on the Larkin Street side of the SF Public Library Main Branch Building, on the building terrace and sidewalk area within the Civic Center Landmark District (District 6). **Review and Comment** by the Architectural Review Committee regarding the proposal to install a temporary interactive art installation at the site for one year. Designed by the Exploratorium in partnership with the SF Public Library, the project features columns with interactive exhibits about social psychology. Exhibits will invite people to connect with each other, confront biases, challenge conformity, practice generosity, and share stories. The installation is being designed in close collaboration with SFPL Program and Facilities staff.
Preliminary Recommendation: Review and Comment

SPEAKERS: = Julie Flynn – Staff presentation
+ Sean Lawny – Exploratorium presentation
+ Steve Getter - Anchoring
ACTION: Reviewed and Commented

ARC COMMENTS

- **Appropriateness within the Civic Center Landmark District.** The project is temporary and will be in place for only one year and has been designed to be durable, and reversible. It would not destroy or damage any contributing elements within the Civic Center Landmark District: it does not impact the use or historical character of the property at 100 Larkin Street, nor does it remove or alter historic materials. The project would not change or impact deteriorated features, would not involve any chemical treatments, and would not impact any archeological resources.
 - The Architectural Review Committee concurred with staff's assessment at the April 3, 2019, meeting that the proposed project is appropriate within the Civic Center Landmark District.
- 1. **Form, scale, massing, and color palette.** The proposed project directly responds to the architectural form and scale of the Main Library Building in that each column is based on a 3x3 ft grid, echoing an architectural theme of the building and terrace. The sense of the massing, size, scale and proportion, as well as the visual weight of the subject building would be clearly retained. The uniform, bright color of the columns would create a clear differentiation between the temporary project and existing features. Finally, placement of columns is being carefully coordinated with both the Mayor's Office of Disability, internal accessibility staff at SFPL, as well as disability access coordinators at Public Works.
 - The Architectural Review Committee concurred with staff's assessment at the April 3, 2019, meeting that the proposed temporary project is compatible with the character-defining features of the subject site and the

Civic Center Landmark District in terms of form, scale, massing, and color palette

2. **Materials.** The proposed project is designed to be durable but reversible. The columns are created with a steel frame and will be reviewed by a structural engineer to assess any tipping risk. Further, the chairs mounted to the top of the columns are anchored firmly and will withstand wind. Columns will be anchored to the terrace with small bolts, and the project sponsor is developing a restoration plan with Architectural Resources Group - the restoration plan includes close color matching, so holes are not detectable after the exhibit is removed. Proposed ground treatments are also fully removeable and designed to withstand outdoor conditions and meet ADA requirements. The project team is working on adjustments to mitigate any risk of people attempting to climb the columns, as this may be a temptation. Sensitive elements (such as screens, or loose items that could blow away or be stolen) will be closed at night.
 - The Architectural Review Committee concurred with staff's assessment at the April 3, 2019 meeting that the proposed project is designed with suitably durable and reversible materials.

ADJOURNMENT 12:30 PM
ADOPTED MAY 15, 2019