



Observation Wheel at the Music Concourse

Informational Update

Historic Preservation Commission

Wednesday June 1st, 2022



GOLDEN GATE PARK 150 YEARS



Agenda

- Generator Update
- Screening and Fencing
- Permanent Power
- Illuminated Light Show
- Ambient Music on Loading Deck
- Attendance Numbers
- Community Feedback



Generator Update

New 500 kW generator installed May 11th, 2021:

- Reduced height by 2.5'
- It is an entertainment generator with a Decibel level of 68 dB at 23', reduction of 4 dB from the previous generator
- Registered through the California Air Resources Board

Daily operations

- Smoke plumes can occur when the generator starts up each day, although no smoke was observed throughout the day
- No odor observed on site visits, possibility that refueling can generate temporary odor
- Starts one hour before Wheel opening, powered down within 30 minutes of closing

March 1, 2022 generator part malfunction

- Replacement part ordered, due to arrive early June, delayed due to supply chain issues
- Temporary generator is 450 kW with 74dB running at 75% capacity
- Acoustic barriers were installed on May 3, 2022, and they provide a maximum noise reduction of 40.8 dB



Screening and Fencing

Installation completed late summer 2021:

- Screening and vinyl wrap of generator
- Fence screening consists of faux greenery panels zip tied to fence around the generator and along backside of Wheel

Regular review and maintenance

- Panels are reviewed regularly to repair weather impact or damage, vandalism, and normal wear and tear
- Operators committed to making repairs in a week or less



Permanent Electric Power

Permanent additional power would benefit the entirety of Music Concourse, including the Bandshell

Requirements for permanent electric power

- Long-range planning in coordination with PUC and PG&E
- Installation of primary service requires 770 square feet of space with 15' clearance

Given time commitment and spatial requirements it would require, it is not realistic to bring in permanent power given the temporary installation of the SkyStar Wheel



Illuminated Light Show

White light exclusion

- Per agreement with the Operator, white lights are excluded in the final hour of light show
- Programming error caused white lights to be included during a short period of time in the Fall of 2021, corrected shortly thereafter
- White lights are now completely removed for the duration of the show



Ambient Music on Loading Dock

Ambient music is permitted for background music and PA system announcements on the loading dock of the Wheel. Following a noise complaint, the Operator has implemented preemptive measures to ensure it remains at ambient levels. These measures include:

- Reinforcement training with staff regarding the issue
- Placing clear “not to exceed” instructions on sound equipment



Attendance Numbers

Ticket sales

- Delayed by 6 months, the Wheel opened in October 2020
- Closed due to COVID-19 from November 29th, 2020 until March 4th, 2021
- 396,107 tickets have been sold between October 2020 and April 2022

Complimentary tickets

- The Operator provides 500 complimentary tickets per month for underserved communities. To date, RPD has partnered with numerous city agencies and nearly 60 community groups to distribute tickets directly to community members.
- This summer, RPD plans to distribute 2,500 tickets for summer camp field trips to Golden Gate Park and Community Benefit Organizations.

Monthly ticket sales since March 2021

March 2021	34,323
April 2021	31,099
May 2021	27,555
June 2021	29,758
July 2021	30,626
August 2021	24,468
September 2021	16,200
October 2021	15,032
November 2021	19,150
December 2021	20,073
January 2022	15,696
February 2022	16,088
March 2022	17,547
April 2022	19,159

As one parent said, “It was wonderful! Thank you! SO many parts of this city don’t feel like they belong to our children – especially our native children-this was a great way to provide fun and a sense of ownership.”

Community Feedback

Overview of Feedback

Public reception to the observation has been overwhelmingly positive with frequent postings on social media. The Department has received 13 comments via email related to the observation wheel since Historic Preservation Commission voted to approve the four-year extension last year.

Support:

Two positive emails, with one of those looking for ways to acquire community tickets.

Concerns Raised:

Eleven negative emails in the same time period, generally about noise, odor and plumes, nine of which were in advance of the hearings in June 2021 related to road closures in Golden Gate Park and the Great Highway.



Firth Wheel, Midwinter Exposition of 1894



Today's Observation Wheel