

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 05-06

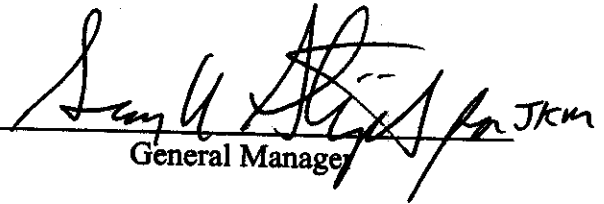
DATE January 5, 2005

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BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY RENOVATION AND EXPANSION (#1504C) - APPROVAL OF AN AGREEMENT WITH FRIENDS OF THE OBSERVATORY TO ACCEPT A GIFT OF A ZEISS UNIVERSARIUM MARK IX SKY PROJECTOR

* K. Chan	<u>C.M. A.K.C.</u>	J. Kolb	_____
J. Combs	_____	F. Mok	_____
H. Fujita	_____	G. Stigile	_____



 General Manager

Approved _____ Disapproved _____ Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Accept a gift of a Zeiss Universarium Mark IX sky projector upon delivery to Griffith Observatory's construction site for installation in the Samuel Oschin Planetarium from Friends Of The Observatory (FOTO) for the Griffith Observatory Renovation and Expansion Project, subject to the conditions in the attached Agreement to Accept Gift;
2. Approve the Agreement to Accept Gift, substantially in the form attached and direct the Board Secretary to transmit the proposed Agreement to the Mayor, in accordance with Executive Directive No. 16, and to the City Attorney for review and approval as to form; and,
3. Authorize the Board President and Secretary to execute the Agreement subsequent to all necessary approvals.

SUMMARY:

On September 20, 2002, the Board awarded Contract No. 3068 to S.J. Amoroso Construction Co., Inc., to renovate and expand the Griffith Observatory, which included a base bid and one Additive Alternate (Board Report No. 02-339). Prior to the award and since construction has started, FOTO has been engaged in a fundraising campaign to supplement funding for the project. To date, FOTO has gifted a total amount of \$5,271,610.90 to the City for the purposes of awarding various Additive Alternates and gifts, as outlined in Board Report Nos. 03-120,

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PG 2

NO. 05-06

03-201, 04-53, 04-227, and 04-228. In order to assure the inclusion of specialized material and equipment for the Griffith Observatory Renovation and Expansion Project, FOTO has agreed to gift to the City the Zeiss Universarium Mark IX sky projector.

One of the strategic goals of the Griffith Observatory Renovation and Expansion Project is for the Planetarium Theater to be completely renovated and reconfigured to a state-of-the-art, world-class technology in support of the most professional educational programming. The design of the new Samuel Oschin Planetarium will include all the latest technology and elements to provide a modern, cutting-edge, immersive educational environment for the twenty-first century.

In 1964, the original Zeiss Mark II star projector was replaced with a Mark IV. Current plans call for a new Zeiss Universarium Mark IX sky projector (an enhanced version of the one installed at the Rose Center in New York), which will deliver the night sky onto the new projection dome. The stellar sky itself is projected from a starball with a fiber optic projection system, and the natural beauty of the firmament that is shown is exceeded only by a clear night under the stars. On a separate platform, six motorized zoom projectors will use fiber optics to display the sun, moon, and planets in their proper configurations.

FOTO, working closely with Observatory staff on specifications, has contracted directly with Seiler Instruments and Carl Zeiss Jena, Germany to manufacture and install the star projector in the center of the Planetarium. The City will be the beneficiary of all warranty of materials and workmanship, along with undertaking future responsibility for proper use and maintenance of the projectors as specified in the original purchase Contract. The City also is responsible for ensuring that qualified personnel are available for the intensive training required for use and maintenance of the Mark IX Universarium.

Report prepared by Sammy Wong, Assistant Project Manager,
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