

February 25, 2013

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Los Angeles City Council  
Public Works Committee  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Arts, Parks, Health & Aging Committee  
200 North Spring Street  
Los Angeles, California 90012

Re: **Report on the Formation of a Sixth Street Viaduct  
Public Arts Advisory Committee  
COUNCIL FILE 11-1789-S1 (Huizar, Alarcón, Buscaino)**

Honorable Members of the Public Works Committee, and  
Honorable Members of the Arts, Parks, Health and Aging Committee:

The General Manager, Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA) respectfully recommends that the City Council:

1. **Instruct DCA to work with Council District 14 and the Bureau of Engineering (BOE) to establish a five-member Public Arts Advisory Committee to assist DCA with the development of the vision, goals, and objectives for the public art component of the Sixth Street Viaduct project.**

#### Introduction

Pursuant to Los Angeles Administrative Code Section 19.85, the City sets aside an amount equal to one-percent of the total cost of all City construction, improvement, or renovation projects in order to fund new public art projects in compliance with its Public Works Improvements Arts Program (PWIAP, or "Percent for Art Program"). Administered by DCA's Public Arts Division, the Percent for Art Program aims to enhance LA's access to arts experiences by activating LA's public spaces with the work of local, regional, and internationally recognized artists.

DCA has worked with BOE for the past 14 years on the integration of the Percent for Art Program with the City's Bridge Improvement Program (BIP). During this time, DCA has commissioned 25 artists to work with the bridge design teams to create site-specific public art components for bridges, including, railings, lighting, paving treatment, look-out points, and bridge entrances and exits.

The Sixth Street Viaduct Replacement represents one of the City's most significant bridge projects. It is also the first bridge project that is monumental enough in scale and scope to create an iconic public artwork as part of the BIP program. At this time it is estimated that the project will generate a \$1.65-million arts component under the Percent for Art Program.

#### Background

In July 2012, DCA staff met with BOE staff and a CAO representative to discuss the Sixth Street Viaduct project and the significant public percent for art budget it will generate. During this preliminary meeting, BOE provided a summary of the Viaduct project scope and Program management structure, and DCA reviewed the typical public art design strategies previously used on Bridge Improvement Projects. Given the Viaduct project's magnitude and intricacies, it was clear the public art component for the project would require a different approach than had been implemented for previous bridge reconstruction projects.

Subsequently, DCA staff began attending the monthly BOE Sixth Street Viaduct Executive meetings. Staff also attended a Design Aesthetic Advisory Committee (DAAC) meeting, and three public presentations made by the bridge consultant finalists, in order to better understand the scale and complexity of the project as well as its potential for a robust and innovative art program.

Working within the management structure already developed for the Sixth Street Viaduct Program, DCA staff initially considered proposing that a DAAC "public art sub-committee" be created to work with DCA on the public art program for the project. However, the sub-committee proposal is not feasible given there are no artists or arts professionals on the DAAC (which is comprised of 5 local business leaders and 4 professional architects and engineers).

Therefore, in order to develop a public art program for the Sixth Street Viaduct project that will match the high level of architectural design, community participation and cultural aspirations of the City, the Department of Cultural Affairs agrees that the creation of a professional Public Arts Advisory Committee (PAAC) is warranted for this important project.

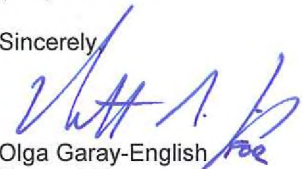
The mandate of the proposed PAAC would be to provide DCA with assistance, guidance, and expertise during the development of a curatorial vision for the Viaduct's public art program, including recommendations for public art selection processes to best support that vision. The planning phase is an especially critical juncture for DCA's administration of the Viaduct's public art program, given the project's magnitude and complexity.

Each PAAC member should possess a working knowledge and interest in the visual landscape of Los Angeles, with specific emphasis on Boyle Heights and the Downtown Arts District. As a whole, the full PAAC should include a diverse set of arts professionals with demonstrated expertise across a range of arts and cultural subjects and issues.

Once established, DCA proposes convening the PAAC for a series of working meetings coordinated by DCA staff. These working meetings would also include a representative from BOE, the Viaduct design consultant firm, and Council District 14.

For further information, please contact Felicia Filer at (213) 202-5547 or Becky Snodgrass at (213) 202-5519.

Sincerely,



Olga Garay-English  
General Manager

OGE:ff:bs

Copy to: Gary Lee Moore, Bureau of Engineering