



BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
AGENDA LETTER

Agenda Number:

Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
105 E. Anapamu Street, Suite 407
Santa Barbara, CA 93101
(805) 568-2240

Department Name: Community Services
Department No.: 057
For Agenda Of: December 12, 2023
Placement: Administrative
Estimated Tme:
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from:
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Department George Chapjian, Director, Community Services Department
Director(s) 805-568-3407
Contact Info: Sarah York Rubin, Executive Director, Office of Arts and Culture
805-568-3992

SUBJECT: Acceptance of Donation of Douglass Parshall and Roland Petersen Paintings

County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Recommended Actions: B

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Accept the donation of the oil painting *Three Horses* by Santa Barbara County artist Douglass Parshall, valued at \$15,000, from the Florence O. Russell Trust.
- b) Accept the donation of a collection of seven paintings by California artist Roland Petersen from the Living Trust of Roland Petersen.
- c) Determine that the recommended actions are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15061(b)(3), finding that the acceptance of the donations of artwork are covered by the general rule that CEQA only applies to projects which have the potential for causing a significant effect on the environment, and where it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity may have a significant effect on the environment, the activities are not subject to CEQA.

Summary:

This item is before the Board to accept the donation of eight paintings for public display and addition to the County collections. In 2023, two trusts contacted the Office of Arts and Culture regarding the potential donation of significant paintings by iconic regional artists Douglass Parshall and Roland Petersen to the County. The Florence O. Russell Trust offered to donate the painting *Three Horses* by artist Douglass Parshall (Attachment A). The Living Trust of Roland Petersen offered to donate a collection of 7 paintings by artist Roland Petersen (Attachment B). The Arts Commission and County Arts in Public Places Committee voted unanimously to recommend that the Board of Supervisors accept the works, which is also the staff recommendation. Due to the value of the work, the donations are subject to approval by the Board of Supervisors.

Background:

In July 2023, the trust of Florence O. Russell proposed a donation of *Three Horses*, a painting by respected local artist Douglass Parshall, to the County. The work is valued at \$15,000. On September 13, 2023, the County Art in Public Places Committee voted to recommend that the Parshall work be added to the County collections. At the regular meeting on November 8, 2023, the Arts Commission voted to recommend that the Board accept the Parshall work.

Parshall (1899-1990) attended the Santa Barbara School of the Arts. He helped found the Santa Barbara Artist Group and taught art at the Santa Barbara Art Institute and Santa Barbara Junior High School (SBJHS). He also painted a significant mural at SBJHS while he served as a local Works Public Administration (WPA) Supervisor. Parshall's art has been exhibited widely, including the Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA), the Crocker Museum, the Golden Gate International Exposition, the Santa Barbara Museum of Art, and the De Young Museum. His work is held in the permanent collections of the Crocker Museum and Detroit Institute of Art.

In June 2023, the Living Trust of Roland Petersen offered to donate a collection of 7 paintings. On September 13, 2023, the County Art in Public Places Committee and the County Arts Commission voted to recommend that the Board accept the works. A World War II Veteran, Guggenheim and Fulbright Fellow, and UC professor, Petersen (1926-) played a prominent role in establishing the Postwar Bay Area Figurative Movement. He is considered one of California's preeminent visual artists.

Petersen's art has been exhibited internationally and acquired for the permanent collections of the Whitney Museum of American Art, San Francisco Museum of Modern Art (SFMOMA), Museum of Modern Art (MoMA), Crocker Art Museum, Santa Barbara Museum of Art, Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Museum, Philadelphia Museum of Art, Long Beach Museum of Art, De Young Museum, and Musée Municipal in Brest, France.

Performance Measure:

The recommendation is primarily aligned with Goal No. 5, Maintain and Enhance the Quality of Life for All Residents.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Budgeted: N/A

Attachments:

Attachment A – Images and Appraisal of Douglass Parshall Painting

Attachment B – Checklist of Roland Petersen Paintings

Authored by:

Sarah York Rubin, Executive Director, Office of Arts and Culture

cc:

Eva Camarena, Executive Assistant, Community Services Department