

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
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Agenda Number:
Prepared on: March, 28, 2006
Department Name: General Services
Department No.: 063
Agenda Date: April 18, 2006
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time:
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Ronald Cortez, Deputy County Executive Officer
County Executive Office (568-2243)

Bob Nisbet, Director (568-2626)
General Services Department

SUBJECT: Memorandum of Understanding, Courthouse Legacy Foundation and County
1st Supervisorial District

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

1. Execute Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the County of Santa Barbara and the Santa Barbara Courthouse Legacy Foundation, and
2. Authorize the Courthouse Legacy Foundation to display the Thomas Van Cina Mural: *El Funeral del Gobernador Jose Figueroa* in the Santa Barbara Courthouse along side the existing Van Cina Murals.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with our organizational values regarding collaboration and partnering.

Executive Summary and Discussion:

The Santa Barbara Courthouse is one of our most important community treasures and was recently designated a National Historic Landmark, indicating its importance to a national and international community as well. In an effort to build on the legacy of the property, a group of local citizens began exploring how best to conserve the property, buildings and artifacts for all visitors to enjoy into the future. In 2004, the Santa Barbara Courthouse Legacy Foundation was formed as a not-for-profit [501(c) 3] Public Benefit Corporation for the sole purpose of conserving the beauty and majesty of the Courthouse. The Foundation is governed by a 17 member, community based board of Trustees, lead by former County Supervisor Naomi Schwartz.

Memorandum of Understanding

Over the short period of time the Foundation has been in existence, it has been working on raising the awareness of the general public about the conservation needs at the Santa Barbara Courthouse through a series of events, press coverage and personal contacts. Recognizing that there are various levels of responsibility for the care of the property, with primary responsibility in the General Services and Parks Departments. There are also many stakeholders involved in the use of the property, both inside the building and the sunken gardens. There are regular daily maintenance issues, deferred maintenance issues and conservation-preservation issues.

In an effort to clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the stakeholders in the property with respect to maintenance and conservation projects, the County and Courthouse Legacy Foundation desire to enter into an MOU.

The structure of the MOU covers three basic areas of responsibility:

1. For regular and customary maintenance of the property, the County will continue to be responsible with no expectation upon the Courthouse Legacy Foundation to raise private funds to contribute to regular and customary maintenance.
2. Projects that involve life-safety related elements. When the County undertakes a capital improvement project that includes the modification of building systems and conservation-preservation of historic resources, the County and the Legacy Foundation may collaborate together.
3. Conservation-Preservation Projects: When the Legacy Foundation undertakes a conservation-preservation project, like the restoration of the Spirit of the Ocean Fountain, the County grants to the Foundation the right to execute that type of project without direct County involvement.

The MOU has been developed in full compliance with the newly adopted Policy on Donations and Gifts to the County.

Van Cina Mural

In the 1920's Thomas Van Cina was commissioned to paint six large scale murals depicting major events in Santa Barbara's history. The Courthouse Legacy Foundation is seeking permission to hang and display a Van Cina mural in the Santa Barbara Courthouse. Of the six known Van Cina's, four already hang in the Courthouse.

1. *El Funeral del Gobernador Jose Figueroa,*
2. *El Desembarco de Cabrillo a Santa Barbara,*
3. *El Fandango a la Casa de la Guerra,*
4. *El Pirata Bouchard Pillando el Rancho Refugio,*
5. *El Padre Serra Lantando la Cruz para el Presidio, and*
6. *El Encumbrimiento del Canõn*

The four hanging in the Courthouse are: *El Desembarco de Cabrillo a Santa Barbara, El Fandango a la Casa de la Guerra, El Pirata Bouchard Pillando el Rancho Refugio and El Padre Serra Lantando la Cruz para el Presidio.* These murals were gifted to the County of Santa Barbara in the 1980's.

The *El Funeral del Gobernador Jose Figueroa* (fig. 1) has been hanging at the Old Mission Santa Barbara since 1948. The Mission is the burial place of Jose Figueroa. Over the course of many years, community leaders have been working with the Mission to move this mural to the Courthouse to hang next to the other Van Cina's. Through a series of negotiations, the Courthouse Legacy Foundation was gifted the mural by the Old Mission Santa Barbara, Library and Achieve on the condition that it be displayed in the Santa Barbara Courthouse with the other Van Cina's. The Courthouse Legacy Foundation raised the \$5,300 conservation cost to have the mural restored. That work is approximately 80% completed. The remaining conservation work will occur in the building so the general public can have an opportunity to watch the final restoration work prior to the mural being mounted for display on the second floor near Superior Court, Department One. This project will begin the effort to conserve all the paintings in the Courthouse, including those in the Mural Room.



Figure 1: Van Cina Mural Hanging at the Old Mission

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MOU Example Projects Undertaken Solely by CLF.

The Courthouse Legacy Foundation is undertaking the systematic documentation of the entire property in cooperation with the National Parks Service, Historic American Building Survey. This project will take approximately four-years over the course of four summers and will include two architects, drafters, historians and photographers. The anticipated project cost is \$400,000 with an anticipated local match of \$90,000. The Courthouse Legacy Foundation would be the source of that local match. The National Parks Service would provide the remaining funding.

Parallel to this project is the cataloging of all historic resources on the property. This effort will be executed by local historians with advice and consultation through the Getty Conservation Institute and funded by the Courthouse Legacy Foundation at an anticipated cost of \$250,000. These efforts will provide the needed information for the Courthouse Legacy Foundation to create a Conservation Plan, which will be similar in format to the County's *Capital Improvement Program* document.

Mandates and Service Levels:

The project will not impact Mandated Programs or Service Levels.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

There is no Fiscal impact as a result of this action. There will be a short-term facility impact during final restoration work due to the mural being displayed for conservation work. Once hanging on the wall, there will be no facility impact.

Special Instructions:

Forward three duplicate original executed agreements and a Minute Order to the County Architect at 1105 Santa Barbara Street, 2nd Floor (Courthouse East Wing).

Concurrence:

Auditor-Controller

County Executive Office

Board Letter prepared by Robert Ooley, AIA, County Architect