

SANTA BARBARA COUNTY BOARD AGENDA LETTER



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

Agenda Number:
Prepared on: 11/10/05
Department Name: Parks
Department No.: 052
Agenda Date: 11/22/05
Placement: Administrative
Estimate Time: 20 Min on 12/6/2005
Continued Item: NO
If Yes, date from:

TO: Board of Supervisors

FROM: Rick Wheeler, Director of Parks
568-2461

STAFF Patrick Davis, Executive Director, Arts Commission, 569-3993
Linda J. Gardy, Departmental Analyst, 568-3990

CONTACT:

SUBJECT: Accept a gift to the County Arts Commission of an art collection from the Berkus Family

Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors:

Set a hearing for December 6, 2005 to consider recommendation regarding the Barry Berkus Art Collection as follows:

Approve and authorize the Chair to execute an agreement with Barry Berkus to accept a collection of contemporary artworks by Santa Barbara County-based artists.

Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

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

Executive Summary and Discussion:

In the twenty-eight year history of the County Arts Commission there have been occasional gifts of individual pieces of art as a part of the County's collection, primarily for display in public places. Recently noted architect, urban planner and art collector Barry Berkus offered the County Arts Commission a near comprehensive collection of contemporary paintings, drawings, photographs and sculpture collected between 1980 and the present. All of artists represented are either from the Santa Barbara area or have a local connection. The collection numbers over 60 pieces and the donor has agreed to make additional art purchases for the collection at his discretion to complete or update the collection.

Mr. Berkus has also agreed to complete renovations (shelving, flat files, climate control and security system) on a storage and conservation space of approximately 300 square feet in the basement of the County Courthouse to house and maintain the collection. The estimated cost for the donor improvements is \$10,000. Additionally, Mr. Berkus has agreed to underwrite the cost of a publication to inform the public about the artists and the works in the collection. He is requesting that the County paint the room and provide a required separate access from County Elections outside of their security area. The County Public Works Department has estimated that the County improvements will not exceed \$4500.

The only requirement of the Arts Commission is that they appoint a curator for the collection and mount one exhibition from the collection every two years, at the Channing Peake Gallery or other appropriate exhibition spaces in the County.

The opportunity for the County to own a collection of art (paintings, photographs, drawings, and sculpture) of this quality and breadth is indeed unique. Stewardship of the Berkus Family Collection and appropriate exhibition is in line with the mission of the Arts Commission. The initial \$4500 cost to provide access to the storage space is the only cost to the County and is available in the budget of the General Services Department.

Mandates and Service Levels:

There are no mandates or changes to existing service levels

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

Allocation of approximately 300 square feet of existing storage space and a one time cost of \$4500 from the budget of the General Services Department..

Special Instructions:

None

Concurrence:

Auditor-Controller
Clerk Recorder Accessor
County Council
General Services