

# 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:** 11/7/02  
**Department Name:** General Services  
**Department No.:** 063  
**Agenda Date:** 11/12/02  
**Placement:** Administrative  
**Estimate Time:**  
**Continued Item:** NO  
**If Yes, date from:**

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**TO:** Board of Supervisors

**FROM:** Ronald S. Cortez, Director  
General Services Department

**STAFF CONTACT:** Robert Ooley, AIA  
County Architect, 568.3085

**SUBJECT:** Acceptance of Restoration Work Valued at \$12,000 from Courthouse Docent Council  
First Supervisorial District

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## Recommendation(s):

That the Board of Supervisors accepts the donation of restoration work of the Courthouse Mural Room windows and draperies valued at \$12,000 from the Courthouse Docent Council.

## Alignment with Board Strategic Plan:

The recommendation(s) are primarily aligned with our organizational values regarding leadership, initiative and innovation.

## Executive Summary and Discussion:

In 1974, the Courthouse Docent Council was founded under the leadership of the Santa Barbara Bar Association, the Law Wives of Santa Barbara and the Junior League.

The original purpose continues today---almost 30 years later---to preserve and interpret the history, art and architecture of the Santa Barbara County Courthouse and, in addition, to provide the children of Santa Barbara County an opportunity to experience how the legal system works, through the staging of mock court trials. The participants in these mock court trials also visit the courtrooms during real-life trials when possible. The Council serves also as advisor to the County Board of Supervisors and County Architect concerning projects that involve the Courthouse buildings and grounds. There have been thousands of visitor's to the Courthouse over the years, including many Heads of State.

Over the years the Docents have provided oversight and funding for a number of minor projects in and around the Courthouse. They were partly responsible for getting the Courthouse designated as a City Landmark in 1981. They are assisting the County Architect with a National Historic Landmark application.

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The Mural Room is the “jewel” of the Courthouse and is a cherished place to the Docents and many who visit. It is often the place of weddings and special events. While in general the room is in good condition, there are several areas that need attention. In January of 2002, the Docent Council voted to fund the restoration of the windows and draperies. The project was delayed because of wedding and party events. During the first 19 days of October, Crosby Wood Turning, a local vendor, executed the window restoration and Hayward’s, also a local vendor, is working on the restoration of the draperies.

**Mandates and Service Levels:**

No change in programs or service levels.

**Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:**

This restoration work is expected to add 30 years of life to the Historic County Courthouse Mural Room windows and draperies. The cost of the restoration, approximately \$12,000, was donated by the Courthouse Docents.

**Special Instructions:**

The Clerk should forward a Minute Order to Robert Ooley, AIA, Office of the County Architect, Courthouse, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Annex.