



**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

Submitted on:
(COB Stamp)

Department Name: Community Services
Department No.: 057
Agenda Date: June 10, 2025
Placement: Administrative Agenda
Estimated Time: N/A
Continued Item: No
If Yes, date from: N/A
Vote Required: Majority

TO: Board of Supervisors
FROM: Department Director(s): Jesús Armas, Community Services Director
Contact: Sarah York Rubin, Executive Director, Office of Arts & Culture
SUBJECT: Sole Source Purchase of Custom Tile for the County’s “Tribute to the People of Lompoc” Mural

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County Counsel Concurrence

As to form: Yes

Other Concurrence: Procurement

As to form: Yes

Auditor-Controller Concurrence

As to form: N/A

Recommended Actions:

That the Board of Supervisors:

- a) Authorize the County Purchasing Agent to issue a Purchase Order, not to exceed \$50,000, for the purchase of custom tile from Enduring Images, Inc. as a sole-source procurement pursuant to County Code Section 2-39, subdivision (c), without requiring a formal bid process; and
- b) Determine that the above action involves government funding mechanisms and/or fiscal activities and is not a project under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15378(b)(4).

Summary Text:

This item is on the agenda to request that the Board authorize a sole source purchase of custom ceramic art tiles to reproduce the County’s “Tribute to the People of Lompoc: Ethnic Diversity” mural on the exterior of the Superior Court Building in Lompoc, CA. The vendor, Enduring Images, Inc., specializes in a proprietary ceramic printing process using genuine ceramic pigments and toners, resulting in vibrant, durable tiles backed by a lifetime guarantee against fading (Attachment A).

Discussion:

Commissioned by the County Arts Commission in 1992, the mural is owned by the County. It holds significance due to the renown of its artist, Richard Wyatt, Jr., as well as its depiction of diverse leaders from Lompoc's history. Despite restoration efforts, the mural continues to deteriorate because of incompatibility between the wall substrate and original acrylic formula. Following consultation with art conservation specialists, staff and the Arts Commission recommend a tile reproduction as the most viable solution to preserve the image for future generations.

The "Tribute to the People of Lompoc: Ethnic Diversity" mural is one of the largest public artworks commissioned through the County's Percent for Arts program. Richard Wyatt, Jr., a prominent Black muralist, worked with the Arts Commission and the Lompoc community to create the 64' x 18' portrait. Wyatt's commemorative murals also include works at the Robert F. Kennedy Monument, Capitol Records Building, and Los Angeles Union Station.

Background:

First painted in 1992, the mural has deteriorated significantly despite attempts at remediation due to environmental factors (Attachment B). In 2011, the Lompoc Mural Society fundraised and hired Wyatt to restore the mural; however, within a few years, the paint began to peel again. In 2017, Wyatt returned to Lompoc to assess the mural's condition and recommended a tile or mosaic treatment to secure artwork longevity. The Arts Commission earmarked the mural for restoration should funding become available.

During the County's efforts to update the Percent for Arts funding mechanism, staff began researching mural restoration options and alternative mediums. Reports by two firms specializing in public art conservation estimated mural repainting costs to range from \$96,000 to \$173,000. Even with the investment, repainting would only provide a short-term solution, as the underlying substrate issues would remain. Following extensive review and discussion with peer government arts agencies, staff and the Arts Commission have identified tile recreation as the most viable long-term solution. While the overall project costs would be commensurate with painting, a tile medium would provide greater longevity and require less maintenance. Wyatt's estate also approved this approach.

Staff has identified Enduring Images, Inc. as uniquely capable of producing a cost-effective long-term tile solution. Their patented proprietary process utilizes the laser printing of true ceramic pigment, a form of inorganic chemistry, to ensure bonding when coupled with kiln-firing at over 1600 degrees Fahrenheit. The textured porcelain tile base features a scratch-proof, UV fade-resistant surface, and has been successfully used in outdoor public art projects nationwide. Additionally, Enduring Images, Inc., offers a lifetime warranty against color fading.

Fiscal and Facilities Impacts:

The total project cost is estimated between \$86,000 and \$111,100, which includes \$36,107.18 for tile production and shipping, and an estimated \$50,000 to \$75,000 for installation, which will be conducted through a separate bid process. The cost to produce and ship 1,080 custom 12" x 12" tiles is based on a vendor quote of \$33,202.00, plus approximately \$2,905.18 in sales tax. Sales tax will be paid separately, as the vendor does not collect it. The project is funded by Fiscal Year 2025 Percent for Art funds.

Fiscal Analysis:

Tile procurement would be funded through the County’s Fiscal Year 2025 Percent for Arts appropriation.

Funding Source	FY 2025	FY 2026	Total
Percent for Arts Appropriation	36,107.18	0	\$36,107.18
State			
Federal			
Fees			
Total			\$36,107.18

Staffing Impacts:

The project falls within the existing scope of work for the Office of Arts and Culture. The General Services Department facilities staff has supported the project research and development and will review and confirm tile installation materials, standards, and processes in advance of installation.

Special Instructions:

Please send one copy of the minute order to Phung Loman, Chief Procurement Officer, at ploman@countyofsb.org and one copy to Hannah Rubalcava, Office of Arts and Culture Grants and Contracts Manager, at hannah@sbac.ca.gov.

Attachments:

Attachment A – Enduring Images, Inc. Tile Mural Proposal

Attachment B – Mural Images and Proposed Treatment

Authored by:

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