

MEMORANDUM

TO: INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS **DATE:** JULY 7, 2016

FROM: ROSALYN, CHAIR, CULTURAL HERITAGE COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: INFORMATION AND UPDATES ON CULTURAL HERITAGE ITEMS

ALLOCATION OF HOTEL TAX PETITION

A petition drive began on June 11, 2013 to gather enough signatures to place on the November 8, 2016 ballot measure that would designate the Grants for the Arts Program would receive 7.5% of the 8% hotel tax, the Cultural Equity Endowment fund would likewise receive 7.5%. The deadline for submission of the signatures is July 11, 2016. The signatures will need to be verified by the Registrar of Voters that the signators are residents of San Francisco and registered to vote.

CALIFORNIA ARTS COUNCIL INCREASED FUNDING

In this year's Governor Brown and the State legislature approved an additional \$10.8 million investment in the programs of the California Arts Council(CAC) with the purpose to meet the needs and demand for arts programs that would benefit diverse communities in the state.

The budget includes a \$6.8 million one-time increase for the CAC and an additional \$4 million ongoing allocation for the state's Arts in Corrections program.

The funding increase would expand the reach of the CAC's competitive grant programs that serve California communities by funding nonprofit arts activities with a focus on arts learning and engagement; equity and access; cultural and community development; and technical support and resources for the arts field.

STATE CULTURAL DISTRICTS PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

The California Arts Council (CAC) issued a Request For Proposal (RFP) seeking a firm or individual to conduct research, develop a program, and create an implementation plan to create the first statewide cultural districts program.

The firm or individual consultant(s) is expected to demonstrate significant knowledge of and proven ability to create an informed framework for program development and implementation in the arts, government, nonprofit, or related fields; experience leading community development-related projects engaged in building stronger neighborhoods, communities, or economies; and experience working with economic development agencies or related private sector entities. The CAC expects to begin the program in the fall of 2016.

Assembly Bill No. 189, which was signed by the Governor on October 1, 2015 that would require the CAC to establish criteria and guidelines for state-designated cultural districts, as defined. The bill would require the council to establish a competitive application system for certification, provide technical and promotional support for certified state-designated cultural

districts, and collaborate with public agencies and private entities to maximize the benefits of state-designated cultural districts. The bill would provide that a geographical area within the state may be certified as a state-designated cultural district by applying to the council for certification, as provided. The bill would also provide that certification as a state-designated cultural district is effective for 5 years, after which the district may renew certification every 3 years.

LANDMARKING OF PEACE PAGODA / PEACE PLAZA

The oral history digital file of George Yamasaki from NJAHS Archives was shared with Shannon Ferguson who is with the Historic Resources Survey Team of the Historic Preservation Commission on June 5, 2016. I have not heard back from her.

ASSESSMENT OF PEACE PLAZA

After a meeting with representatives from the SF Metropolitan Transportation Agency (SFMTA) and the Department of Parks and Recreation a thorough assessment of the Peace Plaza, in particular the on-going leaking of water into the Japan Center Garage is being scheduled. The funds for this assessment, estimated to be approximately \$00,000, will be covered by the City and County of San Francisco based on the lawsuit that was filed by the City against the contractor that worked on the remodeling of the Peace Plaza. Work on the assessment should begin in the next several weeks.

ASSESSMENT OF THE RUTH ASAWA FOUNTAIN

No progress has been reported on this item.