



**Sacramento Metropolitan
Arts Commission**

800 Tenth Street, Suite 1
Sacramento, California 95814
(916) 264-5558

A Public Agency

October 6, 1993

Art in Public Places Committee
Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission

Committee Members:

SUBJECT: SACRAMENTO METROPOLITAN ARTS COMMISSION -
DEACCESSIONING OF ARTWORK AT MESA GRANDE PARK

LOCATION

Mesa Grande Park - District 7

RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that the Committee recommend the deaccessioning of the artwork at the Mesa Grande Park, and forward their recommendation to the Arts Commission for action at their November 10, 1993 meeting.

SUMMARY

The purpose of this report is to advise the APP Committee on the condition of the artwork at Mesa Grande Park commissioned through the Art in Public Places Program of the Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission. Staff recommends that due to the artwork's deterioration, health and safety concerns, and the lack of financial resources to restore and maintain it, the APP Committee approve the deaccessioning of the artwork.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

On January 7, 1991, artist Richard Armstrong was contracted by the City of Sacramento to design, fabricate, and install an earthwork at Mesa Grande Park. The amount of the commission was \$6,000 which included funds for labor and materials. The earthwork consists of a triangular mound approximately 128 feet long by 70 feet wide and 5 feet high; concrete and flagstone paths; rosemary plantings; grass seeding; and a cement/mixed media medallion.

The forming of the mound and the dirt itself was supplied by the Parks Division. After the dirt was moved into place, the artist installed concrete and flagstone paths. Upon inspection of the paths, landscape architects from the Parks Division informed Metro Arts staff that the quality of the workmanship was unacceptable, and that the

paths would be susceptible to breakage and deterioration within a very short time. Metro Arts agreed to expend funds for a licensed contractor to remove the paths and install new ones with cooperation and direction from the artist. The contractor would also be responsible for installing mowstrips, a curb at the top of the mound, and jute netting. The Parks Division put the job out for bid, and the amount of the contract was \$5,770. After the new construction was complete, the artist planted rosemary and installed the medallion. Metro Arts staff and landscaped architects inspected and approved the project as completed in April, 1993.

Within two months after the project's completion, the Parks Division reported that the artwork was in very poor condition. Weeds were growing throughout, the jute netting was detached in many areas, and the paint on the medallion was peeling off. Because the rosemary plantings were very small, they had not established, and the concrete edges of the pathways were exposed. Children climbing and riding bicycles up and down the mound were also contributing to the artwork's deterioration.

Artist Armstrong was notified of the situation, and was advised that the APP Committee would be taking action regarding the deaccessioning at their October, 1993 meeting, and the Arts Commission at their November, 1993 meeting. He was told that he would be sent an agenda for each meeting, and that he could speak if he so desired.

On September 16, 1993, at their monthly meeting, the Art in Public Places Committee was advised of the artwork's condition. The artist had been invited to speak, but declined. Staff advised the Committee that funds were not available to restore and maintain the work, and that residents in the Mesa Grande Park neighborhood were concerned about the piece having become unsightly and unsafe for children, and are seeking resolution of the situation. The Committee was advised that the deaccessioning of the Mesa Grande work would be an action item on their October meeting agenda.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

If deaccessioning is approved, the Parks Division has estimated the cost of removing the artwork to be \$4,600. The estimate includes removing all the landscape items, grading the area, modifying the irrigation system, and installing sod. The estimate does not include lowering the height of the mound which is optional (\$1,300), or the cost for Parks to administer the work (\$1,100) should we seek Parks assistance.

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POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

The recommendations are consistent with the City's deaccessioning policy as adopted by City Council on September 4, 1984.

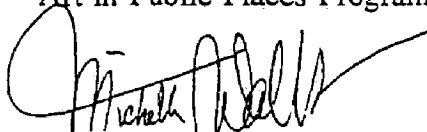
MBE/WBE EFFORTS

None.

Respectfully submitted,



KATHY GEE
Arts Program Assistant
Art in Public Places Program



MICHELLE WALKER
Director
Sacramento Metropolitan Arts Commission



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September 16, 1993

Richard Armstrong
3628 California Avenue
Carmichael, California 95608

Dear Mr. Armstrong:

This letter concerns artwork entitled "Look To The World" which you were commissioned in 1990 to create and install for the City of Sacramento at Mesa Grande Park. The piece consists of an earth mound, flagstone paths, rosemary plants, and a medallion. (Construction of the flagstone paths was contracted out to Cioli & Sons Construction after a joint determination was made by the Parks Department and Metro Arts that the original concrete/flagstone installation did not meet construction standards for durability and workmanship. As a result, Metro Arts supplied additional funding for the removal of the paths and construction of the new ones.)

Metro Arts staff and landscape architects from the Parks Division have examined the piece since its installation in April, 1993. It has been determined that conditions exist with the artwork which pose maintenance and safety problems. These conditions include erosion of the soil due to the the lack of mature plantings and the scattering of jute netting; cracks and exposed concrete edges in the flagstone paths; and deterioration of the medallion's paint. Due to the rapid deterioration of the piece, residents in the neighborhood are concerned about the piece having become unsightly and unsafe for children, and are seeking resolution of the situation.

Funding is not available to once again restore the artwork, and we are concerned that the piece does not pose a safety issue for children playing in the area. Therefore, Metro Arts will immediately begin the process of deaccessioning or removing the artwork. As mentioned, this does not mean that Metro Arts will deny existence of your commission and completed artwork. On October 21 at 3:30 p.m., the APP Committee will vote on the deaccession, followed by a Commission vote on November 10 at 4:00 p.m. You are invited to attend and give your comments at the APP Committee meeting when the item is discussed. We will send you copies of the agendas.

Should you desire to keep any part of the artwork, you may request so at the APP Committee meeting. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please call me at 264-5577.

Sincerely,

Michelle Walker, Director