Date: April 07, 2021

To: San Francisco Recreation and Park Commission Capital Committee

Through: Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager
Toks Ajike, Director, Capital and Planning Division

From: Lauren Chavez, Project Manager
Toni Moran, Grant Manager

Subject: Buchanan Street Mall Park Improvement Project – Grant Application, Accept and Expend, and Associated Agreement

AGENDA WORDING

Discussion and possible action to 1) adopt a resolution approving the application by the Trust for Public Land (“TPL”) to the California Department of Recreation for up to $5,800,000 in Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Program Grant Funds for the Buchanan Street Mall Park Improvements Project (“the Project”); 2) recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Recreation and Park Department to enter into an agreement with TPL to accept and expend the state grant plus an additional $1.3 million from TPL (collectively $7.1 million) for the Project; and 3) recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Recreation and Park Department to enter into an agreement with the State to operate and maintain the park improvements for a period of 30 years following completion of the Project.

STRATEGIC PLAN

Strategy 1—Inspire Public Space
   Objective: 1.2: Strengthen the quality of existing Parks & Facilities
   Objective: 1.4: Preserve and celebrate historic and cultural resources

Strategy 2—Inspire Play
   Objective 2.2: Strengthen and promote the safety, health and well-being of San Francisco’s youth and seniors
   Objective 2.3: Work with partners and neighborhood groups to activate parks through organized events, activities, and unstructured play

Strategy 3—Inspire Investment
   Objective 3.1: Increase public investment to better align with infrastructure needs and service expectation
Objective 3.3: Cultivate increased philanthropic support

BACKGROUND

The Buchanan Street Mall is in the Western Addition, within San Francisco Supervisorial District 5. The park spans the full width of Buchanan Street, between Grove and Eddy Streets. The Trust for Public Land (TPL) has been a committed partner since the project began in 2014, and has worked on the site with RPD, Citizen Film, Green Streets, The Exploratorium, and the community to implement temporary activation elements, develop a Vision Document, and shape a conceptual design for the park through extensive community engagement. The conceptual design for the full five blocks was created by the Office of Cheryl Barton and approved by RPD Commission in March 2020.

Through the Let’sPlaySF! Initiative, a partnership between with the Recreation and Park Department and the San Francisco Parks Alliance, the children’s play area within the Turk-Golden Gate block of Buchanan Street Mall was identified as a Tier 2 project for renovation. The Turk-Golden Gate block was identified as the most project ready, and the Department is moving forward with detailed design and construction of this one block with confirmed funding from Let’sPlaySF!, the general fund, and the 2020 Health & Recovery Bond. The Department continues to seek additional funding to implement capital improvements on additional blocks of Buchanan Street Mall.

The Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization Grant (“Grant”) program originates from Proposition 68 California Drought, Water, Parks, Climate, Coastal Protection, and Outdoor Access for All Act of 2018 that was approved by the voters on June 5, 2018. The purpose of grant is to create new parks and new recreation opportunities that serve critically underserved neighborhoods across California. There is $395,302,155 available for Round 4 Grants and $8.5 million is the maximum grant award.

Projects eligible for grant funding must serve a community with a median household income less than or equal to $56,982 (80% of the statewide average) or serve a community with less than three acres of open space per 1,000 residents. Neighborhoods with the highest number of people living below the poverty line are prioritized. Project with high levels of public participation in the park design and development, designed with sustainable elements, and that create at least 20 jobs or volunteer opportunities are the most competitive project.

The Statewide Park and Community Revitalization Program has a five-year grant performance period, with project applications due to the State by March 12, 2021, project awards will be announced late summer 2021. Projects completed and project completion packets are due March 31, 2025.

The grant agreement requires biannual reporting, and each project that receives grant funding must file a Deed Restriction protecting the property for public use through June 30, 2050.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION
The goals of the Proposition 68 Statewide Parks Grant program are closely aligned with the Buchanan Street Mall program. TPL is applying for $5.8 million to support the design and construction of the Eddy – Turk block, in addition to the Turk – Golden Gate block, and to design the Memory Walk, which will eventually weave through the entire park.

The community-identified goals of capital renovations at Buchanan Street Mall are:
1. Safety, lighting, and beautification;
2. Connect all blocks and unify the community;
3. Tell the story of the community and the neighborhood;
4. Social interaction and multi-generational recreation; and
5. Skills training and jobs creation.

In support of these goals, the conceptual design for the northern two blocks includes the following elements:
- A memory walk, incorporating art and interpretive elements to tell the stories of the neighborhood;
- New pedestrian lighting, to encourage walking through the space;
- A flexible plaza for gathering and small classes or events, as well as a stage for larger performance events;
- Several picnic and seating areas;
- A half basketball court that could be used for multi-sports;
- New planted areas, including bioswales and a communal garden; and
- New play areas for young and school age children, and an adjacent adult fitness court to encourage inter-generational play.

In addition to the extensive community engagement that occurred prior to this Commission’s approval of the conceptual design, TPL and RPD have hosted a virtual community meeting, are presently conducting a survey to refine the all-ages play area, and will host one final community meeting in late spring 2021.

SUPPORT

The Trust for Public Land
Citizen Film
Green Streets
Supervisor Dean Preston
Mayor London Breed

OPPOSITION

There is no known opposition.

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: Statewide Park Grant Resolution
Exhibit 2: Sample Prop 68 Grant Contract
Exhibit 3: Amendment 1 to the Trust for Public Land Agreement
Exhibit 4: Signed Agreement with the Trust for Public Land for Buchanan Street Mall
Exhibit 5: DRAFT Statewide Grant Accept and Expend Resolution