Date: June 17, 2021

To: Recreation and Park Commission

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

From: Toni Moran, Senior Administrative Analyst

Subject: Buchanan Street Mall – Grant Agreement and Accept and Expend

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**Agenda Wording**

Discussion and possible action to 1) authorize the General Manager to enter into a grant contract with the California State Department of Parks and Recreation concerning the administration of a $705,816 Land and Water Conservation Fund Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant for the Buchanan Mall Project (“the Project”); 2) recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Department to accept and expend the grant; and 3) recommend that the Board of Supervisors approve the grant contract which requires the Project area be maintained as public open space in perpetuity.

**Strategic Plan**

The Recreation and Parks planning project supports the following objective in the Strategic Plan:

- Strategy 1: Inspire Public Space
  - Objective 1.2: Strengthen the quality of existing Parks & Facilities.
- Strategy 3: Inspire Investment
  - Objective 3.1: Increase public investment to better align with infrastructure needs and service expectation.

**Background**

On April 6, 2020, the Recreation and Park Department (RPD) applied for a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership (ORLP) grant in the amount of $705,816, to support park improvements on the Fulton – Grove block of Buchanan Street Mall. The LWCF-ORLP Program is a federal grant program administered by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR). There is approximately $40 million available to support the acquisition and development of public outdoor recreation areas and facilities in disadvantaged communities within the 50 states. Each state park agency can nominate two projects for funding.

Grantees are required to provide a minimum of 100% in matching funds towards the total project cost and the project must be completed by March 2024. Properties acquired or
developed with LWCF-ORLP funding must be placed under federal protection preserving the public’s outdoor recreational use of the site in perpetuity. Thus, after the grant is awarded, the grantee is required to file a Section 6(f)(3) Boundary Map with the National Park Service that identifies all parcels protected. The LWCF program also requires that all projects comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

Considering these grant requirements and parameters, RPD's Capital Division determined that the Fulton – Grove block of Buchanan Street Mall would be the best fit for this funding source because the project is located in a disadvantaged community, has completed the public process, has the required matching funds, and meets the grant schedule.

On June 3, 2020, the DPR recommended the Buchanan Street Mall Project to the National Review Committee for LWCF ORLP funding. If funded, the Project will transform the Fulton – Grove block of Buchanan Street Mall into a community space that provides opportunities to host picnics and other family and community events, relax or exercise outdoors, and to collectively grow food in their neighborhood. The Project’s planning was completed in April 2020. Construction will be initiated spring 2023 with completion scheduled for winter 2024.

**Project Fund Sources**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Market Octavia Fund</td>
<td>$1,438,731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SFRPD General Funds (FY 2018-19)</td>
<td>$144,131</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust for Public Land (In-kind)</td>
<td>$138,718</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LWCF ORLP Grant</td>
<td>$705,816</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Funds</strong></td>
<td><strong>$2,427,198</strong></td>
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</tbody>
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**Recommendation**

Staff recommends the Recreation and Park Commission authorize the General Manager to enter into a grant contract with the California State Department of Parks and Recreation concerning the administration of a $705,816 Land and Water Conservation Fund Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant for the Buchanan Mall Project (“the Project”); 2) recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Department to accept and expend the grant; and 3) recommend that the Board of Supervisors approve the grant contract which requires the Project area be maintained as public open space in perpetuity.

**Supported By**

Supervisor Preston  
Citizen Film  
Green Streets  
Trust for Public Land  
Exploratorium’s Studio for Public Spaces  
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
Opposed By
None known at this time