Date: December 16, 2021

To: Recreation and Park Commission

Through: Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager
Stacy Bradley, Interim Director, Capital & Planning Division

From: Toni Moran, Senior Administrative Analyst

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

Agenda Wording
Discussion and possible action to recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Department to 1) enter into a grant contract with the California State Department of Parks and Recreation concerning the administration of a $3,900,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant for the Buchanan Mall Project (“the Project”) which requires that the Project Area be maintained as public open space in perpetuity; and 2) accept and expend the grant for the purposes of the Project.

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

- **Strategy 1—Inspire Public Space:** Keep today’s parks safe, clean, and fun; promote our parks’ historic and cultural heritage; and build the great parks of tomorrow
  - Objective: 1.2: Strengthen the quality of existing Parks & Facilities
  - Objective: 1.4: Preserve and celebrate historic and cultural resources

- **Strategy 2—Inspire Play:** Promote active living, well-being and community for San Francisco’s diverse and growing population
  - 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:** Through community engagement, advocacy, and partnerships, cultivate more financial resources to keep San Francisco’s parks and programs accessible for all
  - Objective 3.1: Increase public investment to better align with infrastructure needs and service expectation.
  - Objective 3.3: Cultivate increased philanthropic support
**Background**
On June 18, 2021, 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 $3,900,000 to support park improvements on the Golden Gate – McAllister and the Fulton – Grove blocks 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 $150 million available in this fifth round of the LWCF-ORLP Program 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 summer 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 Buchanan Street Mall would be the best fit for this funding source because the project’s located in a disadvantaged community, has completed the public process, has the required matching funds, and meets the grant schedule.

On November 1, 2021, the DPR recommended the Buchanan Street Mall Project to the National Review Committee for LWCF ORLP funding. ORLP grant awards will be announced in April 2022. If funded, the Project will transform the Golden Gate to McAllister and the Fulton – Grove blocks 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>Fund Source</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>IPIC Market Octavia Fund</td>
<td>$2,338,731</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SF PUC Joint Capital Infrastructure Funds</td>
<td>$1,750,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LWCF ORLP Grant</td>
<td>$3,900,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Funds</strong></td>
<td><strong>$7,988,732</strong></td>
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**Recommendation**

Discussion and possible action to recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Department to 1) enter into a grant contract with the California State Department of Parks and
Recreation concerning the administration of a $3,900,000 Land and Water Conservation Fund Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership Grant for the Buchanan Mall Project (“the Project”) which requires that the Project Area be maintained as public open space in perpetuity; and 2) accept and expend the grant for the purposes of the Project.

**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