



London N. Breed, Mayor  
Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

**Date:** March 17, 2022

**To:** Recreation and Park Commission

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

**From:** Toni Moran, Senior Administrative Analyst

**Subject:** Portsmouth Square – 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 Land and Water Conservation Fund grant in an amount not to exceed \$6,000,000 for the Portsmouth Square Project (“the Project”) which requires that the Project Area be maintained as public open space in perpetuity; 2) accept and expend the grant for the purposes of the Project.

### **Strategic Plan**

The Recreation and Park’s project supports the following objective in the Strategic Plan:

#### **Strategy 1 Inspire Place**

- **Objective 1.1** Develop more open space and improve access to existing facilities to address population growth in high-needs and emerging neighborhoods.
  - **Objective 1.1.i** Implement the newly approved \$239 million bond funds for park development and renovation.
- **Objective 1.4** Preserve and celebrate historic and cultural resources
  - **Objective 1.4.b** Require interpretive signage as part of all capital project sites with historic, cultural, or natural resources.
  - **Objective 1.4.d** Develop strategies to recognize and celebrate Native American culture and history on SF parkland.

#### **Strategy 4 Inspire Stewardship**

- **Objective 4.1** Conserve and strengthen natural resources
  - **Objective 4.1.d** Scope San Francisco’s first carbon-neutral facility

## Background

The Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant program supports the acquisition and development of land to create new outdoor recreation opportunities for the health and wellness of California. Since 1965, over 1,000 parks throughout California have been created or improved with LWCF assistance. The LWCF is a federal grant program administered by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) and they issue a request for proposals for LWCF funding every two years. This grant round there is approximately \$40 million in LWCF funding available. On February 1, the Recreation and Park Department (RPD) applied for a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant for a maximum amount of \$6,000,000 and a minimum amount of \$4,500,000. If awarded, the grant will support improvements to outdoor recreation features at Portsmouth Square.

Grantees are required to provide a minimum of 100% in matching funds towards the total project cost and the project must be completed by summer 2025. Properties acquired or developed with LWCF 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 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 Portsmouth Square Project would be the best fit for this funding source because the project has completed the public process, has matching funds, and meets the grant schedule.

If funded, the grant will support the construction of the following outdoor improvements:

1. Upper Plaza, including the raised stage, shade structure, site furnishings, and lighting features.
2. Lower-Level plaza, featuring the children's play area, adult fitness zone, ramps and stairs, and the small plaza that provides an outdoor connection to the clubhouse.
3. Security Features, including gates, fences, lighting, and security cameras.
4. Historic and Interpretive Program featuring permanent interpretive exhibits and displays.

Details on the project scope and be found on Attachment 2 – Recreation and Park Commission Staff Report.

The Project's planning phase was completed in February 2022. Construction will be initiated in Spring 2023 with completion scheduled for Spring 2025.

## Sources & Uses of Funding

### Sources

LWCF Grant	\$ 6,000,000
2020 Health & Recovery Bond	\$48,000,000
Transit Center Impact Fees & CFD Revenue	\$10,865,000
Sustainable Chinatown Grant	\$8,400
Downtown Park Fund (Pending)	\$500,000

Bond Project Balances (Pending)	\$626,600
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$66,000,000</b>

Uses

Soft Costs	\$13,800,000
Hard Costs	\$51,200,000
Project Reserve	\$1,000,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$66,000,000</b>

**Supported By**

- Supervisor Peskin and District 3 Office
- Chinatown Community Development Center (CCDC)
- Committee for Better Parks & Rec in Chinatown (CBPRC)
- Self-Help for the Elderly
- Community Youth Center (CYC)
- Allan Low, former Recreation & Park Commissioner
- Cindy Wu, former Planning Commission President
- Gordon Chin, former Recreation & Park Commissioner
- Rosa Chen, Parks, Recreation, Open Space Advisory Committee
- Community Tenants Association
- Chinatown SRO Families United
- Chinatown Transportation, Research and Improvement Project
- Rose Pak Democratic Club
- Manilatown Heritage Foundation
- Chinese Culture Center
- Ping Yuen Residential Improvement Association

**Opposed By**

None

**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 Land and Water Conservation Fund grant in an amount not to exceed \$6,000,000 for the Portsmouth Square Project (“the Project”) which requires that the Project Area be maintained as public open space in perpetuity; 2) accept and expend the grant for the purposes of the Project.

**Attachments**

1. Recreation and Park Commission Staff Report – Adoption of CEQA Findings and Concept Plan
2. Resolution to Apply