



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

Date: March 1, 2023

To: Recreation and Park Commission Capital Committee

Through: Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager
Stacy Bradly, Deputy Director of Capital and Planning Division

From: Toni Moran, Analyst, Capital Program Division

Subject: Japantown Peace Plaza – EDI/CPF Grant Agreement and Accept and Expend

Agenda Wording

Discussion and possible action to 1) recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Recreation and Park Department to accept and expend an Economic Development Initiative, Community Project Funding Grant in the amount of \$3,000,000 for the Japantown Peace Plaza Project and 2) recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to administer the Grant funds.

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 and facilities.
- Objective: 1.4. Preserve and celebrate historic and cultural resources.

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 3.2. Broaden engagement and strengthen external communications with park users and park partners.

Background

As part of the federal budget for Fiscal Year 2023, Congresswoman Nancy Pelosi secured a \$3,000,000 Economic Development Initiative – Community Project Funding Grant (EDI/CPF) for the Japantown Peace Plaza. The EDI/CPF grant program is administered by United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, Grant Division. The Department will receive an official award letter in late February and at that point will initiate the project application and grant contract preparation.

The is a federal grant and the project will need to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act and Section 106. A project application will also need to be submitted prior to securing a grant agreement. Finally, the project will be subject to federal procurement requirements.

The project application will be based on the vision/conceptual plan approved by the Commission in August 2019 which includes the complete renovation of the plaza and its amenities, meets all ADA guidelines for accessible design and remedies the subsurface waterproofing and water intrusion deficiencies from the plaza into the two-level garage below. The scope of work is:

- Replace paving,
- Increase planting
- Increase seating (accessible, intimate, and terraced)
- Retain/replace historic-cultural elements (cherry trees, heritage monument, boulders, etc.)
- Increase lighting
- Increase usability and flexibility for events
- Improve circulation throughout the plaza
- Improve Post and Geary St entrances
- Seismically upgrade Peace Pagoda

The design team, through detailed engineering and further analysis have fine-tuned the commission approved conceptual design into the current and community supported, site plan which continues to meet the original project goals offset by the community:

- Make Post Street visually open and inviting, while mitigating wind and providing seating and shade.
- Provide a large permanent stage and seating to accommodate 200-300 people.
- Make Peace Plaza an inviting and playful space for people of all ages to discover and explore.
- Create an inviting visual expression along the Geary Boulevard edge that draws people into the plaza and mitigates noise levels from Geary Boulevard.
- Incorporate significant cultural elements included in the original design for Japantown Peace Plaza.

Project Funding

Sources

2020 Health and Recovery Bond	\$25,000,000
General Fund	\$ 27,650
Open Space Fund	\$ 250,000
General Fund Specified Grant (State)	\$ 6,000,000
<u>Community Project Funding Grant (Federal)</u>	<u>\$ 3,000,000</u>
Total Sources	\$34,277,650

Uses:

Hard Costs (Construction incl. contingency)	\$25,000,000
<u>Soft Costs</u>	<u>\$ 9,277,650</u>
Total Uses	\$34,277,650

Schedule:

Planning	Summer 2018
Design	Winter 2020
Construction	Spring 2024
Open to the public	Fall 2025

Staff Recommendation

Staff recommends that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Recreation and Park Department to accept and expend an Economic Development Initiative, Community Project Funding Grant in the amount of \$3,000,000 for the Japantown Peace Plaza Project and 2) recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize the General Manager to enter into an agreement with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development to administer the Grant funds.

Supported by

Japantown Task Force
House Representative Nancy Pelosi
Assemblymember Phil Ting
Japantown CBD
Japantown Merchants Association
Nihonmachi Street Fair
Osaka Matsuri Festival
Cherry Blossom Festival
Kimochi, Inc.
Japanese Benevolent Society of California
Kokoro Assisted Living
Tule Lake Committee
Japanese American National Library
St. Francis Square Cooperative, Inc.
Buchanan YMCA
Christ United Presbyterian Church
Community Meeting Attendees

Opposed By

None known at this time