Date: February 6, 2019

To: Recreation and Park Commission
Capitol Committee

Through: Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager
Lisa Bransten, Director of Partnerships

From: Abigail Maher, Deputy Director of Partnerships

Subject: Buchanan Street Mall - Trust for Public Land Grant Acceptance and Agreement

Agenda Wording
Discussion and possible action to 1) recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorize the Recreation and Park Department to accept an in kind grant valued at up to approximately $900,000 from the Trust for Public Land for project management, planning and design services, and community engagement for the Buchanan Mall 5 block project, including a Let'sPlaySF! play area renovation project; and 2) authorize the Department to enter into an Agreement with the Trust for Public Land regarding the in kind grant.

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 1.4.: 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 3.3 Cultivate increased philanthropic support

Background: Location
The Recreation and Park Department manages the Buchanan Street Mall, a five-block pedestrian Mall between Eddy St. and Grove St. The Mall includes three ageing playgrounds, pathways and other amenities and is located in Supervisorial District 5.

Background: Project
Let’sPlaySF! has its origins in the $195 million San Francisco Clean and Safe Neighborhood Parks Bond approved by 71.6% of voters in November 2012. The Bond allocated $15.5 million to renovate dilapidated playgrounds through the City.
In 2014, the Recreation and Park Commission appointed a Citizen Task Force that prioritized playgrounds for renovation based on three primary factors: (1) the presence of Chromated Copper Arsenate (CCA) Pressure Treated Wood, (2) low Household Median Income, (3) high Youth Density and (4) low Parks Alliance Playground Report Card Grades, and in December 2014, the Recreation and Park Commission unanimously adopted the list. A map showing the prioritized playgrounds is attached to this report as Attachment A. In the wake of that determination the Department and the Parks Alliance agreed to partner on Let’s Play SF!, a capital campaign dedicated to raising sufficient funds to ensure that all 13 playgrounds can be reimagined for San Francisco’s children.

Buchanan Street Mall includes one of the seven Tier 2 playgrounds.

The Trust for Public Land has been a committed partner of the Department with the shared goal of providing access to high quality and safe outdoor spaces. Specifically, The Trust for Public Land has been instrumental in the renovations of Boeddeker Park and Civic Center Playgrounds. The Trust for Public Land has expressed their gratitude to be a part of the Let’s Play SF! initiative and to contribute towards the initiative’s meaningful city-wide goal.

**Grant and Agreement**

The Trust for Public Land has generously offered to cover the cost of consultants and TPL staff time to develop the concept design for all five blocks of Buchanan Mall. TPL is working towards raising additional funds for construction documents and construction oversight for a single block or equivalent area.

The concept plan and the construction documents will include the Let’s Play SF! playground.

If TPL is not able to raise additional funds for construction documents and construction oversight by September 2019, then TPL will turn over the approved concept design to RPD, unless both parties agree in writing to extend the deadline.

The construction budget for the Let’s Play SF! playground will be funded by the San Francisco Parks Alliance grant.

The agreement reflects the work plan, roles, and responsibilities for the Trust for Public Land and the Department.

**Project Outreach**

The Department and The Trust for Public Land staff have been collaborating on the community planning process and outreach. Once a concept plan for the project is finalized, Department staff from the Capital Division will bring the concept plan before Rec Park Commission for review and approval.

**Staff Recommendation**

Staff recommends that the Commission recommend that the Board of Supervisors authorizes the Recreation and Park Department to accept an in kind grant valued at up to approximately $900,000 from the Trust for Public Land for project management, planning and design services,
and community engagement for the Buchanan Mall 5 block project, including a Let’sPlaySF!
play area renovation project; and authorizes the Department to enter into an Agreement with the
Trust for Public Land regarding the in kind grant.

Supported By:
Supervisor Vallie Brown
Recreation and Park Department staff
The Trust for Public Land
San Francisco Parks Alliance

Opposed By:
No known opposition at this time

Attachment:
Buchanan Mall Trust for Public Land Agreement