



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

Date: April 4, 2019
To: Recreation and Park Commission
Operations Committee
Through: Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager
From: LaMonté Bishop
Subject: Alex Nieto Memorial

Agenda Wording

Discussion and possible action to accept a grant of a memorial and plaque from Alex Nieto Memorial Committee and Acción Latina to commemorate the life of Alex Nieto; to approve the installation and location of the memorial; and to approve the language of an affixed plaque.

Strategic Plan Reference

Strategy 3 Inspire Investment Objective 3.2: Broaden engagement and strengthen external communications with park users and park partners.

Background

Alex Nieto was born and raised in the Bernal Heights and Mission neighborhoods and was a widely known loved member of those communities. He tragically lost his life in an encounter with San Francisco Police Department officers on March 21, 2014 in Bernal Heights Park. The community strongly desired to memorialize the life of Alex Nieto and mark the spot of his untimely death. Many see the Alex Nieto memorial as a way to repair harm done to the neighborhood and bring a sense of justice and healing.

Over the past couple of years, eight community meetings and events were held to support the establishment of a memorial:

- November 2016: Bernal Heights Community Center, 100 people
- December 2016: San Francisco Board of Supervisors Meeting, 75 people
- December 2016: Alex Nieto Memorial Victory Celebration, Bernal Heights, 100 people
- March 2017: Alex Nieto Memorial Concert, Brava Theater: 300 people
- May 2017: San Francisco Carnaval, 1,000 people



- February 2018: Alex Nieto Memorial Meeting at City College, 300 people
- March 2018: Alex Nieto Memorial Meeting on Bernal Heights, 100 people
- May 2018: San Francisco Carnaval, 1,000 people
- March 2019: Alex Nieto Memorial Meeting on Bernal Heights, 100 people.

Legislation was written which directs the Recreation and Park Department, after a community process open to residents of the Bernal Heights neighborhood and to other interested persons, and subject to Civic Design Review by the Arts Commission, to install a memorial on Bernal Heights Park in honor of Alex Nieto. The memorial shall be located along the paved pathway on the northern side of Bernal Hill. The legislation was approved by the Board of Supervisors on January 10, 2017 by a vote of 10-1.

Staff is working on a grant agreement to accept the memorial from the donors.

Design of Memorial

The memorial is a collaborative design by Josué Rojas and Armando Vasquez. The monument will be constructed of concrete with painted imagery and measure approximately 4 ft. high by 2 ft. wide by 4 ft. deep on a 12 ft. circular concrete base. The project is sponsored by the Alex Nieto Memorial Committee and Acción Latina. The approximate cost of the memorial is \$50,000 and a \$20,000 maintenance fee fund would be required.

The design will consist of a Medicine Wheel (and correlating color scheme) that will serve as general inspiration to provide a cohesive and complete design motif for the memorial as a whole.

The pedestal, composed of colored, precast concrete will feature colorfully painted, coated metallic panels (steel) which will be set into the pedestal. The art on the metal panels will be composed by several local artists. This beautiful, decorated pedestal's primary function will be to uphold the commemorative plaque — a magnesium plate with a brushed aluminum finish, black printed type and a laser cut image of Alex Nieto.

The plaque will include his first and last name, date of birth and date of death and will have the following message inscribed:

Against the violence and injustice of 59 bullets, family and grassroots community arose as a movement to promote the positive spirit and to defend the honor of a beloved young man Alex Nieto, who was killed by the police.

Amor for Alex Nieto.

March 4, 1986 to March 21, 2014.

Staff Recommendation

To approve a memorial atop Bernal Heights Park commemorating the life of Alex Nieto; to approve the location of the memorial; to approve the language for a plaque to be affixed; and to accept a grant from the Alex Nieto Memorial Committee and Acción Latina.

Supported By:

Department Staff

Supervisor Hillary Ronen

Alex Nieto Memorial Committee

Acción Latina

Opposed By: None Known

Attachments: Alex Nieto Memorial Design Documents

Photos of Alex Nieto Community Meetings

Alex Nieto Legislation