



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

**Date:** December 6, 2018

**To:** Recreation and Park Commission  
Operations Committee

**Through:** Philip A. Ginsburg, General Manager

**From:** Lisa Bransten, Director of Partnerships  
Stacy Bradly, Deputy Director of Planning

**Re:** Rose de Vents Sculpture – permanent placement in gardens adjacent to the Conservatory of Flowers

---

**Agenda Wording:**

Discussion and possible action to approve permanent placement of the art work entitled *La Rose Des Vents* by artist Jean-Michel Othoniel at the gardens adjacent to the Conservatory of Flowers in Golden Gate Park pending final acceptance into the Civic Art Collection by the San Francisco Arts Commission. This proposed action is the Approval Action as defined by S.F. Administrative Code Chapter 31.

**Strategic Plan**

**Objective: 1.2:** Strengthen the quality of existing Parks & Facilities

**Artist Background:**

Artist Jean-Michel Othoniel holds the distinction of being the first living artist with a permanent commission in the gardens of the Palace of Versailles since the era of Louis XVI. During his residency at the Gardner Museum in Boston, Othoniel discovered an 18th-century book entitled, *The Art of Describing*, by Raoul-Auger Feuillet. This book, and the drawings within, proved to be the inspiration for three beautiful fountain sculptures, *Les Belles Danses*, for the Versailles commission.

The design for the art installation at the Conservatory of Flowers Gardens, *La Rose Des Vents*, is an extension of Othoniel's Versailles commission. The installation contemplates a brilliant sculpture adorned with vibrant golden spheres.

**Background and Next Steps**

In 2015, the *Rose Des Vents* was loaned to the City by the JSLH Foundation, which operates the 836M art gallery and temporarily installed in the gardens adjacent to the Conservatory of Flowers in Golden Gate Park after approvals from the San Francisco Arts Commission on June 1, 2015 and the Recreation and Park Commission on July 16, 2015. Since that time, the Department has twice extended the permit as the artist and the owners of the sculpture have



worked with the Arts commission and the Recreation and Parks Department to permanently donate the work to the city.

In October 2018, the San Francisco Arts Commission passed Resolution No. 1002-17-295 authorizing the Director of Cultural Affairs to enter into an agreement with JSLH to accept the work, which is valued at \$540,000, and also a 20-year maintenance endowment estimated at \$190,322 and other associated costs in order to maintain the work. Entering into the agreement is pending final site selection and approval by the Recreation and Parks Commission.

Since that time RPD staff and the Arts Commission have worked with the donor to determine installation details including replacing the existing metal base with a taller base that would bring the total height of the work to approximately 12'5", about a foot taller than the current height of approximately 11'3". This change was requested by Arts Commission staff to discourage passersby from touching the work. The installation would also include an 18-inch wire fence around perimeter of the base also to help prevent passersby from touching the work.

As part of the process, the San Francisco Planning Department conducted a historic resource evaluation of the site and gave the project a Categorical Exemption from CEQA requirements.

If the Recreation and Parks Commission approves permanent placement of the work in Golden Gate Park, the donor will continue to work with the Arts Commission to finalize the gift to San Francisco's Civic Art Collection. As part of that process, the Arts Commission will seek acceptance of the gift from the San Francisco Board of Supervisors.

The Arts Commission will work with the donor to obtain a Structural Engineering Report certifying that the base and concrete footings are adequate to support the weight of the installation. Maintenance will be performed by that Arts Commission using a maintenance endowment that the SFAC and the donor agree is adequate to care for the work.

**Staff Recommendation:** Staff recommends that the Commission approve the permanent siting of La Rose Des Vents at the gardens adjacent to the Conservatory of Flowers.

**Supported By:** Consulat Général de France à San Francisco  
Park visitors interviewed and videoed on site  
Department Management and Staff

**Opposed By:** Mark McGowan

**Attachments:** Attachment A – Location Map  
Attachment B – Images of the Art Installation  
Attachment C – email from Mark McGowan