

PROPOSITION K:  
L.A. FOR KIDS STEERING COMMITTEE  
Minutes from the Regular Meeting of October 26, 2023

**MEMBERS:** Yolanda Chavez, City Administrative Officer, Chair (CAO)  
Matias Farfan, Chief Legislative Analyst (CLA)  
Geoff Thompson, Office of the Mayor (Mayor)

The meeting was called to order at 9:32 A.M.

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General Public Comment, Multiple Agenda Item Comment.

Nate Hayward, CD 14, offered comments in support of Agenda Item 3, Highland Park Junior Arts Center.

General Public Comment, Multiple Agenda Item Comment, comment period closed.

Item 1 Minutes of the September 28, 2023 Regular Meeting.

**DISPOSITION** Approved on consent.

Item 2 CAO and CLA to present the following regarding the 2024-25 Proposition K annual assessment proceedings:

- a. Proposed timeline for Committee approval, relative to preparation of the 2024-25 Assessment Report and Three Year Plan; and,
- b. Resolution to Initiate Proceedings for the 2024-25 Assessment for Committee approval and release to Council.

Action by Committee. Direction to staff and related actions.

**DISPOSITION** Approved with discussion.

Melinda Gejer, CAO, presented the annual timeline of the milestones for the adoption of the 2024-25 Proposition K assessment report recommended as a note and file. Ms. Gejer also presented the resolution to initiate proceedings for the 2024-25 assessment process to be released to Council for approval.

Matias Farfan, CLA, asked to clarify if the recommendation for Item 2a is for the Steering Committee to note and file or to approve. Ms. Gejer responded that the Steering Committee has the option to revise the timeline and if there are no revisions, the report would be a note and file.

Mr. Farfan asked if each sub-item in Item 2 has to be approved separately or if the item can be approved as a whole. Steven Hong, City Attorney, responded it was at the discretion of the Steering Committee to make the decision.

Item 3 The Bureau of Engineering (BOE) report requesting approval of the revised project approach, budget, and schedule for the Highland Park Junior Arts Center project. (Proposition K – ID No. S133, CD 14). Action by Committee. Direction to staff and related actions.

**DISPOSITION** Approved as amended.

Ohaji Abdallah, BOE, began his presentation with a brief description and history of the project. The Bridewell Armory was identified as a potential location for the Highland Park Jr. Arts Center and the initial design option to structurally retrofit and build out the existing 11,000 square feet of the historical armory was \$23.3 million. Mr. Abdallah presented two options that would lower the cost to complete the project while still meeting the Proposition K specified requirements. Option 1 was to demolish the existing armory and construct a 5,000 square feet junior arts center in its place. Option 2 was to keep the armory building in use as a storage facility and build a new 5,000 - 6,000 square feet junior arts center in the existing parking lot. The recommended Option 2 budget is estimated at \$12.4 million, is currently funded for \$6.3 million with a shortfall of \$6.1 million. BOE will submit a CTIEP funding request in the upcoming budget process to close the funding gap. Mr. Abdallah recommended the Committee to approve Option 2 for BOE to move forward with the project.

Mr. Farfan asked if BOE would begin the design work immediately should the Steering Committee approve Option 2. Mr. Abdallah confirmed BOE has already begun the pre-design activities, including schematic design, and that the project will be designed in-house to avoid the 4-6 month process to bring a design consultant on board.

Mr. Farfan asked if the design process would take one year to complete. Mr. Abdallah confirmed the design and permitting would take one year to complete, and that the environmental review would need to be revisited for compliance since the project direction has shifted.

Mr. Farfan asked to amend the recommendation from 5,000 square feet to 5,000 - 6,000 square feet to reflect the details of the report.

Mr. Hong read the amendment to Recommendation 1 of Item 3 into the record as "Approve the revised Project approach, which includes the construction of a new 5,000-6,000 square feet Junior Arts Center and improvements to the existing Bridewell Armory building for use as a storage for the Junior Arts Center".

Geoff Thompson, Mayor, asked for clarification regarding the timeline for needed CTIEP funding. Mr. Abdallah responded that there is currently enough funding to begin construction and BOE would be applying for CTIEP funding through a multi-year approach.

Mr. Thompson asked if any congressional appropriations were identified to fill the funding gap. Mr. Abdallah responded that project was awarded \$1 million in congressional funds and BOE would work with CD 14 to apply for additional funds.

The LAFKSC Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:47 A.M.