



San Francisco Public Library

Date: June 13, 2011

To: Library Commission

From: Luis Herrera, City Librarian

Subject: Bernal Heights Branch Library Artwork Project

At the June 16, 2011 meeting, a discussion for possible action will be brought forth regarding the Bernal Art Project. As you are aware, the Bernal Library Renovation Project was completed in 2009; however, the library opened without a final resolution on the exterior of the building. The exterior of the library consists of a series of murals that were painted in early 1980's as a youth project and their future has been an ongoing controversy since 2002.

Soon after the opening of the renovated Bernal, Supervisor David Campos initiated a mediation process to seek resolution on the dispute. Bernal resident Beth Roy engaged a group of neighborhood residents in a successful mediation process that led to a Statement of Consensus on the mural.

Enclosed are numerous documents that will serve to provide background on the history and status of the project. These include the following explanatory documents:

1. History and background of the Bernal Library mural (slides presented at prior Library Commission meeting)
2. Statement of Consensus including the principles of agreement reached through the mediation process
3. Memo from Bernal Library Artwork Project (BLAP) Committee describing the proposed artwork

This discussion is an opportunity to hear from the public and the Bernal Artwork Project Committee, as well as to respond to any questions or information that you may need in order to make an informed decision. This item will also be placed on the July 21 Library Commission meeting for a subsequent discussion and action to endorse the art work on the exterior façade. Approval of the art work will ultimately reside with the San Francisco Arts Commission.

The BLAP anticipates seeking these approvals from the Arts Commission in August, and beginning Phase One implementation as early as August of this year. The total budget for the completed artwork is \$185,800. The project funds will be raised from both public and private sources. Approximately \$20,000 is available for the Art Project from the BLIP Bernal renovation project. I look forward to a fruitful discussion seeking final resolution to this important matter before you and welcome any questions you may have regarding the Bernal mural and proposed artwork.