

**SAN FRANCISCO LIBRARY COMMISSION**

**RESOLUTION NO. 2009-04**

**RESOLUTION URGING ARTS COMMISSION TO APPROVE RESTORATION OF THE BERNAL MURAL ON THE CORTLAND STREET SIDE ONLY OF THE BERNAL HEIGHTS BRANCH LIBRARY**

WHEREAS, The mural on the exterior of the Bernal Heights Branch Library ("Bernal Mural") was originated by former Bernal Heights Librarian Ruth McGinnis, community activist Kate Esposito and a volunteer neighborhood group; and

WHEREAS, Artist Arch Williams designed three mural sections and the Library Commission and the Arts Commission approved the design and painting began in July 1980; and

WHEREAS, Arch Williams worked with neighborhood youth and volunteer artists to complete the project in 1982; and

WHEREAS, The Bernal Mural consists of three separate sections on three sides of Bernal Heights Branch Library – the south side on the back of the library, the east side facing Moultrie Street, and the front side on Cortland Street; and

WHEREAS, The Bernal Heights Branch Library is being remodeled as part of the Branch Library Improvement Program ("BLIP"); and

WHEREAS, Since 2002, the Library has engaged in discussions with the Bernal Heights community regarding various options for the mural including (1) restoring all or portions of the mural, (2) restoring the exterior to the original WPA era by painting over the entire mural, and (3) restoring the mural on the Cortland Street side of the building only and painting over the other two sides (south side and east side); and

WHEREAS, After careful consultation with the community and mural preservation specialists, Library Department staff has determined that the preferred option is to restore the mural on the Cortland Street side only, and paint over the remaining sections on the south and east sides of the building; and

WHEREAS, Under Charter Section 5.103, the Arts Commission must approve the alteration or removal of any works of art on City property; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the Library Commission urges the Arts Commission to approve the restoration of the Bernal Mural on the Cortland Street side of the Bernal Heights Branch Library only, and paint over the mural sections on the east and south sides of the library.

Approved on: August 20, 2009

By a vote of 6-1

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sue Black". The signature is written in black ink and includes a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Library Commission Secretary