



**Beverly Hills City Council Liaison / Arts and Culture Commission  
Committee will conduct a Special Meeting, at the following time and place,  
and will address the agenda listed below:**

**CITY HALL  
455 North Rexford Drive  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room A  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210**

**Friday, June 14, 2019  
2:00 PM**

**AGENDA**

- 1) Public Comment
  - a. Members of the public will be given the opportunity to directly address the Committee on any item listed on the agenda.
- 2) Request to Loan Yayoi Kusama, Hymn of Life: Tulips to New York Botanical Garden for Spring 2020 Exhibit
- 3) Ringo Starr Art Donation and Location
- 4) Clarification of Roles and Responsibilities Related to Arts and Culture Initiatives

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lourdes Sy-Rodriguez".

**Lourdes Sy-Rodriguez, Assistant City Clerk**

**Posted: June 12, 2019**

***A DETAILED LIAISON AGENDA PACKET IS AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW IN THE  
LIBRARY AND CITY CLERK'S OFFICE.***



Pursuant to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the City of Beverly Hills will make reasonable efforts to accommodate persons with disabilities. If you require special assistance, please call (310) 285-1014 (voice) or (310) 285-6881 (TTY). Providing at least forty-eight (48) hours advance notice will help to ensure availability of services. City Hall, including Conference Room 4A, is wheelchair accessible.



## STAFF REPORT

**Meeting Date:** June 14, 2019  
**To:** City Council Liaisons  
**From:** Patty Acuna, Recreation Services Manager  
**Subject:** Request to loan Yayoi Kusama, Hymn of Life: Tulips to New York Botanical Garden for Spring, 2020 exhibit

Attachments:

1. Staff Report to Arts & Culture Commission
2. Letter from Chief Executive Officer, Carrie Barrett, Ph.D.
3. Proposed drawing of display for Tulips

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At the June 11, 2019 Arts & Culture Commission meeting, staff presented a request from the New York Botanical Gardens (NYBG) to exhibit the original fiberglass sculpture, Yayoi Kusama, Hymn of Life: Tulips for their spring 2020 exhibit. The NYBG provided a mock up drawing of how the three tulips would be displayed in a lily pond. The NYBG would cover costs for transportation of the loaned art, which would be managed by professional art handlers for packing, shipping, unpacking, restoring, and installation. The exhibit is scheduled for the May 2 – November 1, 2020.

The Arts & Culture Commission had several concerns regarding the timing of the loan and that it may interfere with the re-make of the new stainless steel sculpture by Art Bronze Inc. The Commission recommended moving forward with the loan with some conditional requirements. The Commission recommended that the City receive full and complete approval from both Ota Fine Art Studio as well as the New York Botanical Gardens of the process of transporting, installing, displaying and of the destruction of the original 3 tulips. The Commission recommended that written confirmation also be secured from Ota Fine Arts, that the new stainless steel artpiece will be authenticated.

The Commission also recommended that the NYBG cover the cost of de-installing the fiberglass sculpture from its current location. The cost to de-install the sculpture based on Art Bronze's estimate is \$4,020.00. The Commission is also recommending verification from the NYBG in both writing, video and photos to be submitted to the City

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to ensure the destruction of the original sculpture is complete and approved per Ota Fine Arts requirements. The final recommendation from the Commission is to require insurance coverage for the total current value of the sculpture from the New York Botanical Gardens.

Staff is seeking direction on whether to loan Kusama's Hymn of Life: Tulips to the New York Botanical Garden.

# **ATTACHMENT I**



**CITY OF BEVERLY HILLS**  
**COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT**

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Arts & Culture Commission

**FROM:** Patty Acuna, Recreation Services Manager

**DATE:** June 11, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Request to exhibit Yayoi Kusama, Hymn of Life: Tulips in the New York Botanical Garden, Spring 2020.

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The New York Botanical Garden (NYBG) is a world-class public garden and scientific research laboratory and an innovator in multi-dimensional public exhibitions that connect horticulture and nature with the arts and humanities. The public response to their exhibitions has been remarkable and their annual attendance is nearly 1.4 million visitors and growing. (Attachment 1)

The New York Botanical Garden is organizing a solo exhibition of work by contemporary artist Yayoi Kusama to open in Spring 2020. It would be curated by Mika Yoshitake, Ph.D., *Kusama: Cosmic Nature* will explore the deep connections between Kusama's body of work and her lifelong love of nature in a Garden-wide exhibition. The exhibition in the Art Gallery will comprise a display of paintings, drawings, and mixed media works focusing on floral imagery, some dating back to Kusama's formative years. Large sculptures, new commissions created for the exhibition, will grace the Visitor Center and Conservatory lawn.

The NYBG is working together with David Zwirner and Ota Fine Arts on curating the exhibit. Ena Morita from Ota Fine Arts reached out to City staff to discuss the possibility of having the original fiberglass sculpture *Hymn of Life: Tulips*, displayed in its exhibit. The NYBG formally requested the loan of the sculpture for the period of the exhibition which is from May 2 – November 1, 2020. The sculpture would serve as a centerpiece of the Garden's historic solo exhibition.

The gallery would handle crate construction, shipping, onsite conservation work, engineering for footings, crane and art handler services, and creation of interpretive signage. The gallery is assuming they would be providing a one way shipping if the City requests the gallery to dispose/destroy the "exhibition copy" at the conclusion of the exhibit.

Staff is seeking a recommendation from the Arts & Culture Commission on whether to move forward with the loan of the original artwork to the New York Botanical Garden for its spring 2020 exhibition.

**Attachments:**

1. Letter from Chief Executive Officer, Carrie Barrett, Ph.D.
2. Proposed drawing of Tulips in Lily Pond

# **ATTACHMENT 2**

# NYBG

Carrie Rebora Barratt, Ph.D.  
Chief Executive Officer  
William C. Steere Sr. President

May 30, 2019

Mayor Julian A. Gold, M.D.  
City of Beverly Hills  
455 North Rexford Dr  
Beverly Hills, CA 90210

Dear Mayor Gold,

The New York Botanical Garden is organizing a solo exhibition of work by contemporary artist Yayoi Kusama to open in spring 2020. Curated by Mika Yoshitake, Ph.D., *Kusama: Cosmic Nature* will explore the deep connections between Kusama's body of work and her lifelong love of nature in a Garden-wide exhibition. We believe that our historic landscape will provide a unique, natural setting in which our many visitors from New York and beyond can immerse themselves in a previously underexplored side of Kusama's work. I am writing to request the loan of *Hymn of Life: Tulips* from the City of Beverly Hills for this exhibition.

In addition to being a world-class public garden and scientific research laboratory, The New York Botanical Garden is an innovator in multi-dimensional public exhibitions that connect horticulture and nature with the arts and humanities. Our exhibitions are made possible by our green venue: a picturesque 250-acre National Historic Landmark landscape with an expansive forest; picturesque rose, azalea, lilac, daffodil, and vegetable gardens; and America's largest Victorian-era glasshouse for living exhibitions. We display paintings and works on paper in our secure, climate-controlled Art Gallery in the Library building and sculptures throughout our verdant landscape. Our exhibitions have explored how gardens and nature have inspired artists including Georgia O'Keeffe, Frida Kahlo, Claude Monet, Henry Moore, and Dale Chihuly. The public response to our exhibitions has been remarkable—our annual attendance is nearly 1.4 million visitors and growing.

Though well-known for her mirror rooms and obliteration experiences, Kusama is not as widely recognized for her ties to nature, including growing up on her family's flower nursery near Matsumoto, Japan. *Kusama: Cosmic Nature* will offer a rare opportunity to delve into this artist's many botanical themed works. Integrating horticulture and art, the exhibition will illuminate the artist's multifaceted creative output through an examination of her singular style. Working together with our curator, Yayoi Kusama Studio, Inc., and David Zwirner and Ota Fine Arts, the artist's galleries in New York and Tokyo, curators at The New York Botanical Garden have created a checklist of works to be displayed throughout our landscape and buildings. The exhibition in the Art Gallery will comprise a display of paintings, drawings, and mixed media works focusing on floral imagery, some dating back to Kusama's formative years. Large sculptures, new commissions created for our exhibition, will grace our Visitor Center and Conservatory Lawn. A series of specially designed gardens and displays of plants favored by Kusama will extend in and around the Garden's Enid A. Haupt Conservatory.

Mayor Julian A. Gold, M.D.  
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I would like to formally request the loan of the following work from your collection for the period of this exhibition (May 2 – November 1, 2020).

*Hymn of Life: Tulips*, 2007  
Painted fiberglass, ceramic tile, steel

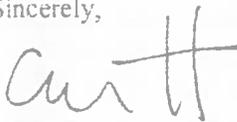
This sculpture from the collection of The City of Beverly Hills will serve as a centerpiece of the Garden's historic solo exhibition. Our curator feels that this important work is historically critical in the evolution of Kusama's outdoor flower sculptures. In an exhibition celebrating Kusama's deep engagement with the natural world, this work is essential to her universe encompassing both microcosmic and cosmological realms.

The work will be installed in the Hardy Waterlily Courtyard, within our Enid A. Haupt Conservatory, a 1902 Victorian-style glasshouse and New York City Landmark. It displays the wonders of the Garden's living collections in lush tropical rain forests, cactus-filled deserts, curated displays of palms from around the world, aquatic and carnivorous plants, and much more. From early summer through fall, the courtyards come alive with vibrant hardy and tropical water lilies and graceful lotus.

The Garden's exhibition staff takes the utmost care with all works entrusted to us while on display and in transit. We will make all arrangements for the transport of your loan, which will be managed at every stage by professional fine art handlers for packing, unpacking, installation, and shipping. The Garden will insure the work under its blanket fine art policy from pickup through deinstallation. Of course, we will assume all costs associated with this loan, including engineering, construction of site specific footings, and any conservation work that is needed. Interpretive signage and object labels for the exhibition will label the work as an exhibition copy, as it is our understanding that the City of Beverly Hills may wish for us to organize onsite disposal of this work, under the supervision of Kusama Studio, at the conclusion of our exhibition.

I have enclosed catalogs, installation photographs, and press clippings from past exhibitions along with a conceptual rendering of how we propose to install the work and our American Alliance of Museums Facilities Report. If you have any further questions, please do not hesitate to contact me personally. My direct telephone number is 718-817-8722 and my email is [cbarratt@nybg.org](mailto:cbarratt@nybg.org). Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

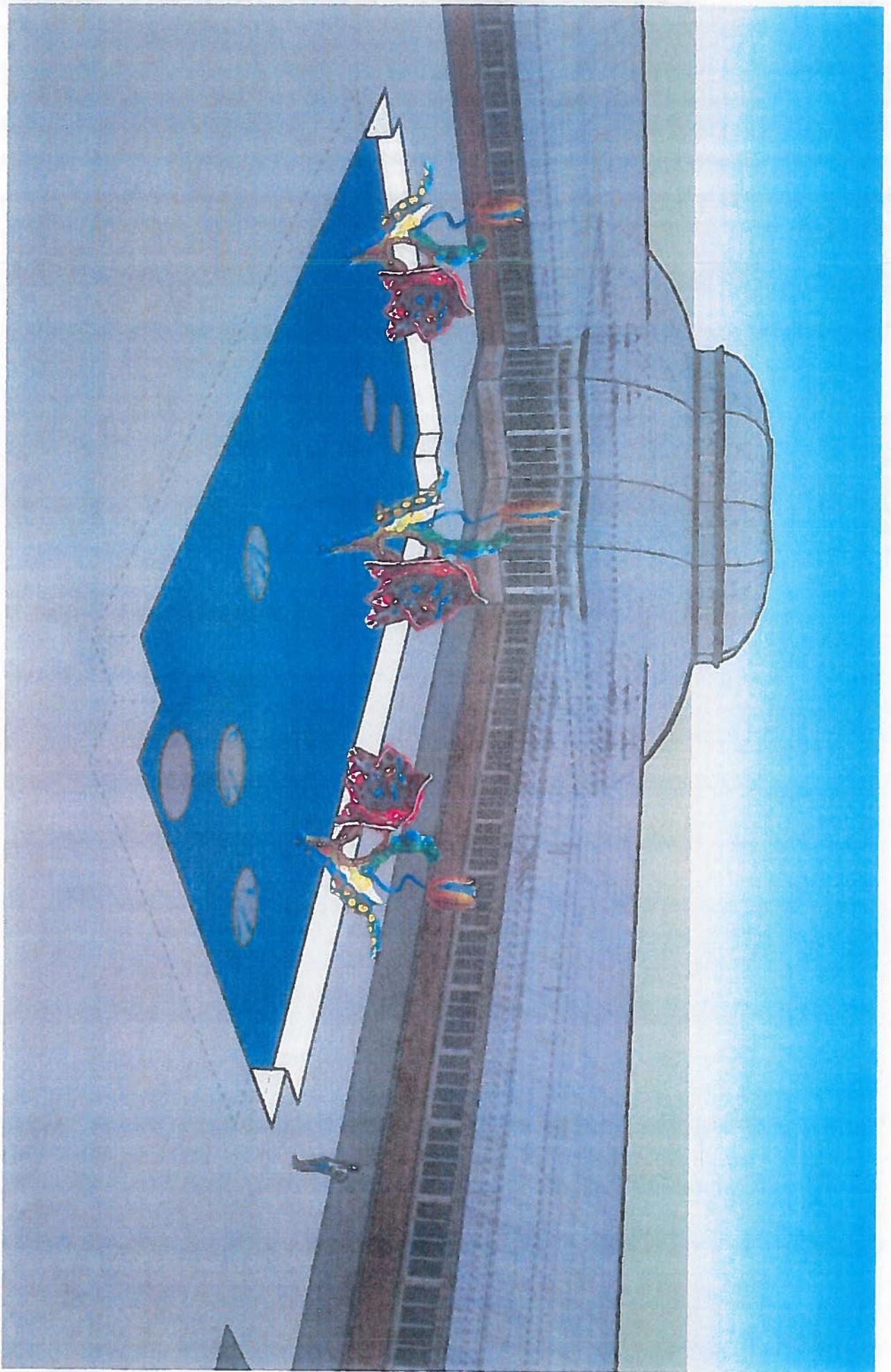


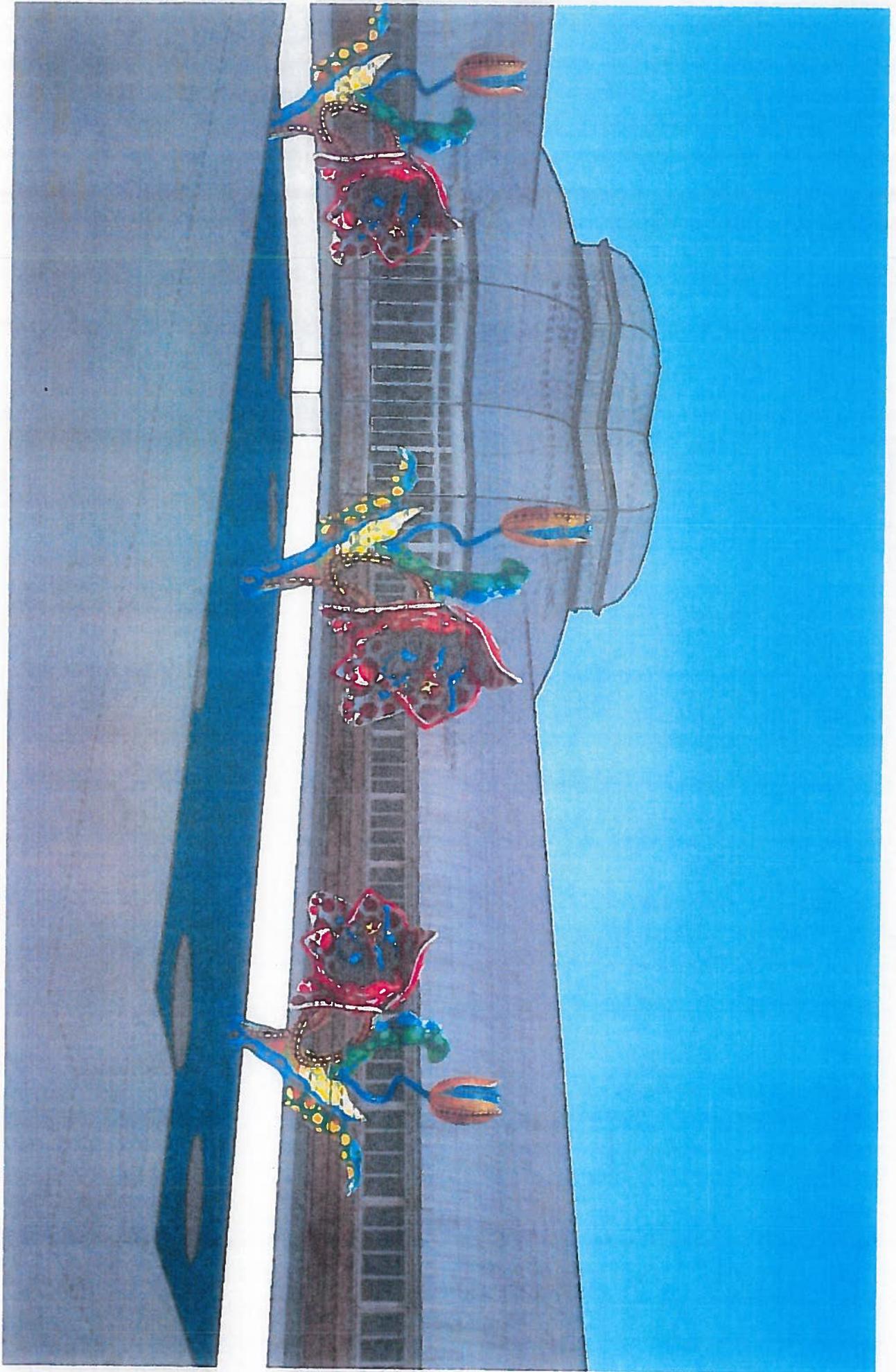
Carrie Rehora Barratt, Ph.D.  
CEO & The William C. Steere Sr. President

Enc.

c: Larry Wiener, City Attorney, City of Beverly Hills  
Patty Acuna, Recreation Services Manager, City of Beverly Hills  
Mika Yoshitake, Ph.D., Guest Curator

# **ATTACHMENT 3**







## STAFF REPORT

**Meeting Date:** June 14, 2019  
**To:** City Council Liaisons  
**From:** Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Assistant City Manager  
**Subject:** **Placement of the Ringo Starr art piece**

**Attachment:** Renderings of proposed location

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At the City Council meeting on May 7, 2019, the City Council decided to accept the donation of *Love and Peace* sculpture by Ringo Starr. However, at that meeting, based on feedback from representatives of Mr. Starr and direction from City Council, staff was asked to propose different possible locations where the piece could be installed, preferably along Santa Monica Blvd.

Staff has identified two possible locations for where the piece could be located, and renderings of the piece in situ are attached to this report. The Arts and Culture liaisons are asked to provide direction on whether one of these locations is acceptable.







## STAFF REPORT

**Meeting Date:** June 14, 2019  
**To:** City Council Liaisons  
**From:** Nancy Hunt-Coffey, Assistant City Manager  
**Subject:** **Clarification of roles and responsibilities related to arts and culture initiatives**  
**Attachment:** None

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The Arts and Culture Commission has expressed excitement about their expanded role and about the interest by the City in their work on arts and culture. At the same time, the change in responsibilities has caused some confusion amongst the commissions about the role of the Commission in relation to the steering committee (commonly referred to as the 2+2+2+2 group) and the stakeholder group of interested representatives of cultural institutions in Beverly Hills. Questions from the commissioners have revolved around whether the commission determines their own work plan items and whether the steering committee and stakeholder group has input or influence on those items. As a result, the commissioners have requested to have a clarifying conversation with the liaisons about the roles and responsibilities of these different groups.