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Memorandum

TO: PARKS, ART, RECREATION AND CULTURE ADVISORY COMMISSION
 FROM: RENEE KRAUSE, CMC, DEPUTY CITY CLERK
 DATE: SEPTEMBER 13, 2018
 SUBJECT: SISTER CITY ART CURATION PROJECT PROPOSAL AND RECOMMENDATION TO CITY COUNCIL

At the August 16, 2018 regular meeting the Commission reviewed the proposal submitted on the Teshio Art Collection. The Commission determined a brief worksession prior to the regular meeting was needed to familiarize themselves with the collection.

Motion before the Commission:

ROEDL/LEWIS MOVED TO RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL ALLOCATE FUNDS TO INSTALL SIGNAGE ON THE FRONT OF CITY HALL AND UV FILM PROTECTION FOR WINDOWS.

Following page is the excerpt from the meeting minutes related to the discussion and motion before the commission.

Recommendation

Take action on the motion before the commission.

Make any additional motions the commission feels are appropriate to address the direction of the City Council.

NEW BUSINESS

E. Pratt Proposal for Teshio Sister City Art Collection

Chair Lowney asked if anyone would like to propose a motion.

Commissioner Sharp did not want to propose a motion at this time as he believed they really needed to discuss what they are going to do and where they are going to put the collection. The proposal was very thorough and he appreciated all the details. He related the various ideas of locating pieces of the collection in various city buildings around the city, he liked the idea of a teaser collection placed on the spit for cruise ship visitors and the like to see. Commissioner Sharp did not see how reasonable it would be to get one of those cabinets at this time.

Chair Lowney was questioning if there would an option to place the collection in various public buildings such as Land's End.

Deputy City Planner Engebretsen explained that security is a concern as there is very limited staff that would be able to care and track this collection. It would also take staff to move and relocate the collection each time.

Commissioner Lewis suggested that they should get the information on the pieces, details on how big the collection is, care needed and value if any before they figure out where to put it. He related that Teshio has installed a large monument that honors the sister city relationship with Homer.

Deputy City Clerk Krause explained that the collection is 37 pieces and security is a major concern and then the issues with staffing. If they split the collection up that increases the burden of tracking the collection, care, and security. It would also lose the effect as a whole collection it would just be pieces of art then.

Commissioner Roedl commented that one of the reasons they were given this project was to make it more accessible to the public. The biggest deterrent is that the public doesn't know where it is. That is why they spoke about signage on the front of City Hall with a small teaser collection out at the Harbor so cruise ship passengers and visitors would be aware of the collection and where it was displayed.

Commissioner Archibald commented that he felt a photographic Library of the collection would be a good way to go. He stated getting one of those cabinets may not be possible now but placing a small collection out at the Harbor would let the public know.

Commissioner Fair responded that they do have one, that was professionally done and exhibit quality, it is kept in the City Clerk's Office.

Deputy City Clerk Krause stated that she is in the process of making it accessible on the website but it is a tedious process and time constraints have delayed the completion of the project.

ROEDL/LEWIS MOVED TO RECOMMEND CITY COUNCIL ALLOCATE FUNDS TO INSTALL SIGNAGE ON THE FRONT OF CITY HALL AND UV FILM PROTECTION FOR WINDOWS.

Discussion followed on using photo collages placed at various points around town; the staff recommendation to postpone for further discussion at the September meeting; viewing the collection prior to the developing the recommendation so that they present clear direction on the best care for the collection; supporting the motion to fund the signage and UV film on the windows; taking the time to make sure they are concise in what they want to do.

LEWIS/FAIR MOVED TO POSTPONE THE RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION AT THE SEPTEMBER MEETING THEN PRESENT THEIR RECOMMENDATION AFTER THE NEW COUNCIL IS SEATED IN OCTOBER.

There was a brief clarification from Deputy City Clerk Krause on the motion to postpone while a motion is pending in response to questions from the commission.

VOTE. NON-OBJECTION. UNANIMOUS CONSENT.

Motion carried.

Pratt Museum: Recommendations for City of Homer's Teshio Art Collection

August 8, 2018

This proposal was created in response to a discussion on May 31, 2018 that included Peter Roedel (PARCAC), Renee Krause (City of Homer), Laurie Stuart (Pratt Executive Director), Scott Bartlett (Pratt Exhibits Curator), and Savanna Bradley (Pratt Collections Manager).

From this conversation, it is understood that PARCAC's priorities for an exhibit about our sister-city relationship with the city of Teshio, Japan include:

- That the exhibit be secure
- That the artifacts are appropriately preserved for posterity
- That the exhibit be free to the public
- A high visitation rate: that the exhibit be in a highly visible/accessible site, where visitors to Homer can easily engage with it
- That Homer's exhibit about the sister-city relationship is as visible as the exhibit at Teshio's city museum, so that it is a destination for delegation visits.
- That there is interpretation and ongoing collaboration beyond the artifacts. [In this case, "interpretation" is the mission-based communication process that forges emotional and intellectual connections between the audience and a resource.]
- Preference for the collection (~35 pieces) to stay together at the same site for security reasons.

The group discussed PARCAC's preference for the exhibit to be a high-traffic, high-visibility site. However, no city-owned site other than City Hall was identified as a possibility. We also discussed creating a small "teaser" exhibit of 1-2 objects in a high visibility area that would draw visitors to City Hall to view the rest of the collection. This idea raised concerns about security for the objects at the satellite location. Therefore, this proposal assumes that the conference room on the northeast side of the City Hall building, where the artifacts are currently stored and on display, is still the most appropriate site for the exhibit.

Caring for the Collection

The Museum recommends the following activities to best protect and provide longevity for the collection art/artifacts:

- Move fragile objects (especially textiles, featherwork, paper) away from light sources.
- Cover windows with UV reduction filters.
- Plan to rotate artworks on display at least once per year.



- Relocate non-display items to an interior storage space with improved environmental stability (temperature and humidity).
- Ensure glass cases for any items on display (to reduce inherent vice and incidental damage from contact).
- Acquire acid-free, inert packing material and create custom storage as necessary for all collections items in storage (including items that rotate out on an annual basis).
- Fabricate inert passive display mounts for object on exhibit (as necessary)
- Acquire more robust display cases which will help to stabilize the internal microclimate (possibly with built-in LED lighting, dessicant storage, etc.).
- Develop and implement simple Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program and a basic "housekeeping" schedule.

Curating the Exhibit

The Museum recommends the following activities to create a public exhibition from the Teshio artifact collection:

- Solicit from Teshio representative (museum or government) the significance of the existing gifts. What do they represent? (i.e. is Teshio famous in Japan for making golf clubs? Was any of the artwork created by a venerated master artist seen as a city/national treasure? **This information is critical metadata to keep associated with the collection, and may also be used/extracted for interpretive labels. This data should be catalogued with an inventory of the entire collection. [Have we provided this information to Teshio on the gifts that we have given? Do we have an inventory of the gifts that are in Teshio's exhibit?]
- Identify suites of objects for exhibit which can provide a focused storyline for interpretation, i.e. "leisure and sport in Teshio," "Two Fishing Villages on the Pacific", "Discovering the history of Japan through an exchange of gifts."
- Create interpretive text outlining the history and nature of the Homer/Teshio sister-city relationship.
- Create signage on an exterior door (on Pioneer Street) identifying access to the "City of Homer Art Collection" (actual title to be determined). PARCAC has identified the goal of drawing general tourist visitation to the exhibit, which will require clear signage and inclusion on tourist maps.
- Consider creating a satellite exhibit or a poster in a higher traffic site (e.g. at the harbor) to market access to the exhibit at City Hall.
- Make access to the exhibit space available on cruise ship/high traffic days (with a docent, when possible).

Budget Considerations

The following activities would need budgeted to meet the priorities set by PARCAC for this exhibit:

SUPPLIES

Acid free storage boxes/tissue for collection	\$300
1-2 display cases with gasket seals, tempered glass, UV	
protection, LED lights	\$16,185 /ea
UV film for conference room windows	\$200
Exterior signage for City Hall	\$50-500
Satellite Poster/Signage	\$100-500
Gloves, desiccant, basic supplies	\$100
Fabrication of exhibit signs for each exhibit	\$300

PERSONNEL/CONTRACT

Collection of metadata/information on Teshio artifacts	40 hours
Inventory of collection with metadata, storage creation	40 hours
Creating exhibit signage (text, graphics)	40 hours
(Note: This would increase if new stories are included)	
Installing exhibit and signage	40 hours

To create the Teshio exhibit, the Museum recommends that the City of Homer consider applying for a grant through the Rasmuson/Museums Alaska Collection Management. Governmental entities holding objects in the public trust are eligible for this collection management grant, which could provide for assistance with UV protection, display cases, storage, and storage supplies. The Pratt Museum would commit to partnering on the writing of such a grant, and would help to select appropriate casework and materials to suit the City's decisions on this exhibit.

Additional Programming/Partnerships

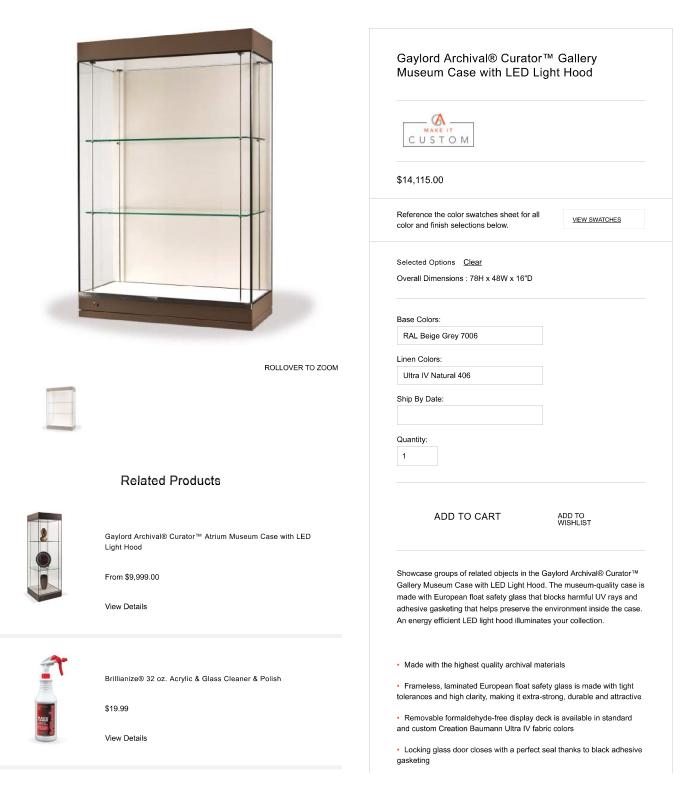
There are many ways to keep the sister-city relationship active, which would give a Teshio art exhibit deeper context and make it more relevant to the community and our visitors. The Museum and the school district could be partners on a program that connected students from Homer and Teshio by videoconference, for example. Other community exchanges and partnerships potential exists. Funders for these exhchanges could include (and are not limited to) the Homer Foundation, Rotary, and the Rasmuson Foundation. To initiate these partnerships, it is recommended that the benefits of the sister-city relationship be clearly outlined in a whitepaper that could be shared with potential partners and funders.



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		UV-Filtering Vitrine	Yes
		Silica Gel Tile Compartment	No
		Security Lock	Yes
		Lighting	Yes
		Number of Shelves	2
		Adjustable Shelves	2
		Interior Height (in.)	68
		Overall Height (in.)	78
		Overall Depth (in.)	16
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