



Request for City Council Committee Action from the Minneapolis Arts Commission

Date: May 17, 2012

To: Council Member Gary Schiff, Chair, Zoning and Planning Committee

Referral to: Council Member Betsy Hodges, Chair, Ways and Means Budget Committee

Subject: Proposed Gift of Statue of General Emiliano Zapata from Government of the State of Morelos, Mexico

Recommendation: Recommend the Minneapolis City Council approve a gift of a memorial statue of General Emiliano Zapata from Government of the State of Morelos, Mexico

Previous Directives: Approval of Phase II Public Art Policies, by Minneapolis City Council, 4/02/04, which includes policies for [Gifts and Loans](#).

Department Information

Prepared by: Mary Altman, Public Arts Administrator

Approved by: Jason Wittenberg, Planning Director _____

Presenters in Committee: Mary Altman

Reviews

- Permanent Review Committee (PRC): Approval ___ Date _____
- Civil Rights Approval Approval ___ Date _____
- Policy Review Group (PRG): Approval ___ Date _____

Financial Impact: No financial impact

Community Impact

- Neighborhood Notification: None Required
- City Goals: 5
- Comprehensive Plan: 9.4
- Zoning Code
- Other

Supporting Information

(Note: This request is being brought before the Minneapolis Arts Commission and the Zoning and Planning Committee concurrently. The recommendations below are from the Commission's Public Art Advisory Panel.)

Donor: In commemoration of the sister-city relationship between Minneapolis and Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico, the government of Morelos is donating to Minneapolis a statue of Mexican national hero, Emiliano Zapata.

Background Information on Emiliano Zapata and His Significance to the Minneapolis Community (Attachment 1)

General Artistic Information

- Images: (Attachments 2 and 3)
- Information on the artist: (Attachment 4)
- Materials: Bronze

Proposed Location/Site

The proposed location is (12th Avenue South and East Lake Street) which is owned by the City of Minneapolis. This property currently contains an arch and planters which were designed by artist Marilyn Lindstrom working in collaboration with community members.

The proposed design includes a new plaza, "Plaza Centenario." Yardscapes, Inc. worked closely with the community group working on this project (see Community Engagement below) to develop the initial concept. The plan is to implement Phase One of this design, which includes installing color and scored concrete plaza area, a base for sculpture and lighting. Phase two will be installed as additional funds are raised. It could include new planting beds, benches, a plaque and additional paving.

The site is the responsibility of the Community Planning and Economic Development Department Housing Division. This maintenance is done by Sentence to Serve and includes mowing the lawn and trash pick up.

(Site plan by Yardscapes, Attachment 7.)

Community Engagement

This project is being coordinated by the Plaza Centenario Committee, which includes:

- Consulado de Mexico: Consul Ana Luisa Fajer, Rolando Borja, Alan Torres Tovar
- El Colegio: Norma Garces
- Ward 9 City Council Office: Gary Schiff
- Local resident and organizer: Tina Tavera
- Local artist: Xavier Tavera
- Meet Minneapolis: Bill Deef
- Augsburg College: Mary Laurel True and Emiliano Chagil
- Columba Ana Hernandez
- Yardscapes: David Kopfmann

The vision of the project is to create a space that honors the relationship between Minneapolis and its sister city, Cuernavaca, Morelos, Mexico. The neighborhoods in the near vicinity of 12th Avenue South and East Lake Street are home to the largest population of Mexican immigrants from Morelos, Mexico in the nation.

The placement of the statue in a public plaza will inspire, educate and bring together the residents of the surrounding neighborhoods and strengthen the City's relationship with its sister-city, and it will provide a location for these residents to regularly celebrate their heritage and relationship with Morelos.

(Letter of support from the Lake Street Council, Attachment 8)

Consistency with Current City Plans

The proposed site is on Lake Street, the primary Commercial Corridor in south Minneapolis. The Minneapolis Plan for Sustainable Growth directs new growth and development to land use features such as Commercial Corridors. While there are no immediate plans for redevelopment of this or the adjacent property, the primary purpose for CPED land ownership is to facilitate development. Therefore the property may not be available for this

use indefinitely, however; the statue could easily be physically relocated to another location should the property be needed for another purpose.

Budget Funding

At their April 2012 meeting, the Public Art Advisory Panel allocated \$40,000 from this year's budget. Below are the details of their funding decision:

- Fund \$35,000 for design refinement, conservation assessment, site preparation and the installation of a footing, base, the statue, lighting and small concrete plaza on the Lake Street side of the plaza (approximately ¼ of the site). Design, construction and installation to be managed by the City, with input from the community on design. Maintain this portion of the artwork through Art in Public Places.
- Fund \$5,000 in design refinement by a landscape architect (to be selected by the City) for the remaining ¾ of the site. These improvements are to be paid for through the community as additional funding is raised. The goal of this design refinement is to take the existing design, and make it more durable and sustainable; with community input, as well as to ensure that it complies with CPTED principles. No improvements will be made to the remaining portion of the site until the short term and long term maintenance of the site is determine and documented.
- The community also must raise funds to provide a plaque for the statue (designed and installed according to Public Art Policies and practices).
- All designs must be approved by the artist of the existing arch and planters on site, and reviewed by CPED and through the appropriate City channels as required by City codes and policies.

Recommendations from the Public Art Advisory Panel

The Panel recommends acceptance of the gift, based on the project achieving the following Public Art criteria:

- Stimulate Excellence in Urban Design and Public Art: The image of Zapata is well-articulated and the bronze appears to be very high quality.
- Involves a Broad Range of People and Communities: Zapata is an important icon for the local Morelos community. He also represents the working poor, and is therefore an important symbol for other City residents and visitors. The statue will raise awareness of the Morelos community. The statue and the plaza will provide a space for community members to come and reflect on the values Zapata represents.
- Contribute to Community Vitality: The project supports an important Sister City relationship. Zapata is highly respected world-wide.
- Use Resources Wisely: The [Midtown Phillips Neighborhood Improvement Coalition](#) is currently considering providing support for annual maintenance. The approved design is very durable and sustainable.

The Panel recommends the gift be classified as a memorial for the following reasons:

- The statue preserves the memory of a deceased person and the events around him, which occurred more than 5 years ago.
- The statute's supporters intended it be installed for a long duration.
- Considering the considerable process the community has gone through to identify a location and funding a long term installation is appropriate.

Summary of Attachments

1. Background on Zapata
- 2 and 3. Images of Statue
4. Information on the Artist
- 5 and 6: Site Conditions
7. Yardscapes Site Plan
8. Letter of Support from the Lake Street Council