



# AGENDA REPORT



**TO:** Honorable Mayor & City Council

**FROM:** Council President Nikki Fortunato Bas  
Council District 2

**SUBJECT:** District 2 Mural Fund Grant For Chinatown Kitchen Kids Mural Project

**DATE:** October 5, 2023

## **RECOMMENDATION**

**Council President Nikki Fortunato Bas** Respectfully Recommends Adoption Of A Resolution Awarding A Grant In The Amount Of \$28,000 From Council President Bas' Mural Fund To Community Rejuvenation Project For A Community Mural On Private Property In The Historic Chinatown Neighborhood At 723 Webster St., With The Support Of Artist Desi Mundo.

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

Council President Bas is seeking to award \$28,000 to the Community Rejuvenation Project and Desi Mundo to execute and install a mural reflecting the cultural and historical significance for Oakland's Chinatown community. The mural will be installed at 723 Webster Street. and will depict a rendering of "legacy", speaking to the history and legacy of those who have come before, and how we honor them. The mural is directed by the oral history work being conducted by Roy Chan of the Oakland Chinatown Oral History Project.

## **BACKGROUND / LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**

In Fall of 2022, Roy Chan approached Desi Mundo and Flo Oy Wong about an oral history project highlighting and accentuating the experience of young people growing up in Chinatown. The project focuses on families that have businesses, or had them at 723 Webster St. These families represent a sampling of the hundreds of hard working immigrant family businesses that have contributed to the rich cultural fabric of Oakland Chinatown. During a time when Chinatown businesses struggle to recover from the pandemic and widespread xenophobia, this timely mural at the 723 Webster building will celebrate the cultural vitality and resilience of culture-keeping entrepreneurs in Chinatown. Other businesses that will be invited to be featured include Golden Eagle Restaurant located next to Quong Wor Food Company during the 1970s and Imperial Soup Restaurant currently operating at 723 Webster.

## **ANALYSIS AND POLICY ALTERNATIVES**

On July 26, 2021, the City Council adopted Resolution No. 88783, which amended Resolution No. 88717, the adoption of the FY 2021-23 Biennial Budget adjustments, to appropriate additional funding for murals across the City of Oakland, business improvement district support, cameras in commercial corridors, transportation, and capital projects. The recommended action would allow for the City Administrator to enter into a grant agreement with the artists and organization outlined for the execution of a mural at 723 Webster.

## **FISCAL IMPACT**

The Project Budget is a total of Fifty-One Thousand Dollars to complete (\$51,000), and Twenty Eight Thousand Dollars (\$28,000) are being allocated from the District 2 Office's Mural Grant Fund (Fund 5505).

Special City Council Meeting  
October 17th, 2023

**PUBLIC OUTREACH / INTEREST**

The Mural will explore generations of the Oakland Chinatown neighborhood and its small businesses through community oral histories conducted by Roy Chan of the Oakland Chinatown Oral History Project (<https://www.chinatownmemories.org/>). The mural is designed based on the information collected by Roy, who is highly regarded as an oral historian and cultural strategist.

**COORDINATION**

My office has been in coordination with the Public Arts Advisory Commission since about May of 2023. Staff at the Commission have had an opportunity to review the proposal and staff intend to bring this proposal to the Public Arts Advisory Commission at the next meeting with quorum. It has also been a pleasure to work with and coordinate with the different community partners and artists advancing this project. Thank you to Roy Chan, Desi Mundo, Flo Oy Wong, community partners Lailan Huen and Ashley Chin, and our organizational partners the Oakland Asian Cultural Center and the Oakland Chinatown Oral History Project.

**SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES**

**Race & Equity:** As an artistic representation of the legacy of residents in the Chinatown community over time, the mural is aimed at not only celebrating, but bringing to the forefront the culture and experiences of Asian Americans in Oakland's Chinatown over the last 80 - 100 years. Having these concrete examples of cultural appreciation and support is an important factor in addressing issues like internalized racism, and brings an educational opportunity to others that can help halt other socio-economic issues, like gentrification.

**ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL**

Council President Nikki Fortunato Bas Respectfully Recommends Adoption Of A Resolution Awarding A Grant In The Amount Of \$28,000 From Council President Bas' Mural Fund To Community Rejuvenation Project For A Community Mural On Private Property In The Historic Chinatown Neighborhood At 723 Webster St., With The Support Of Artist Desi Mundo.

For questions regarding this report, please contact Eric Adams, Community Partnerships Manager, at (510) 238 - 7022, or eadams@oaklandca.gov.



Respectfully Submitted,  
Council President Nikki Fortunato Bas  
District 2