

TO: BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES

FROM: Tim Hetherton, Library Services Director
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PREPARED BY: Tim Hetherton, Library Services Director

TITLE: Placement of donated art in the Central Library

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Board of Library Trustees approve the placement of a Joan Irving Brandt painting in the Central Library in the same area as the Crain donation.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS:

Exhibiting the painting in the Central Library will require secure hanging hardware, and a commemorative plaque. Account No. 4002-8080 – Professional and Technical Services, from the City Arts Commission budget, can fund these services.

DISCUSSION:

Caroline Logan, who serves on the City Arts Commission, and her husband, Hugh Logan, who has served on the City's Civil Service Board, have donated a watercolor painting, *Big Corona, Under the Lifeguard Stand*, by Joan Irving Brandt from their collection to the City of Newport Beach.

Joan Irving Brandt was a painter, sculptor, and muralist. Born in Riverside, CA on March 12, 1916, Irving began painting while a pupil at the Katharine Branson School in Ross, CA. Upon graduation, she attended Riverside College and studied at the Los Angeles Art Center School under Edward Kaminski and Barse Miller. The wife of artist Rex Brandt, she began teaching at his summer school, Blue Sky, in 1948 and in 1973 became co-director. Her teaching experience also included Orange Coast College, Coronado School of Fine Arts, and Chouinard Art School. She served as chairman of the Newport Beach Fine Arts Committee, a precursor to the City Arts Commission, from 1950 until 1961. Much of her subject matter was derived from the area around her home in Corona del Mar where she lived from 1946 until her demise on Nov. 28, 1995. Her work hangs in the Metropolitan Museum of Art and other museums.

From "California Watercolors 1850-1970" By Gordon T. McClelland and Jay T. Last.

At their December 2015 meeting, the City Arts Commission affirmed the recommendation of the Fine Arts Ad Hoc Subcommittee to recommend acceptance of the donation of the painting to City Council. Mr. and Mrs. Logan have agreed to all the conditions listed in Council Policy I-11, *Donation of Art to the City of Newport Beach*. Mrs. Logan requests that the painting be displayed in the Central Library in a public area and staff is seeking approval for this proposal.

On Monday, November 9, Trustees Grant and Ray walked the Central Library with Chair Greer of the City Arts Commission and Commissioner Logan and determined that the comfortable reading area on the second floor adjacent to the utility shaft would be a good site for the Crain donation (see Attachment A) and the Logan donation is temporarily sited there as well to demonstrate the suitability of the wall. The site offers exposure to the public as well as a sitting area for the public to consider the art in a more contemplative manner. The site wall is of an appropriate size to accommodate an additional painting. Three paintings also offers some symmetry and the paintings are thematically related. Staff has painted the surface that the art is hung on the same blue shade that is prevalent on the second floor of the Central Library in order to highlight the paintings and create an accent wall.

Should the Library Board approve the placement of the painting, staff will bring the item to City Council for final approval and acceptance of the work into the City art inventory.

Attachment A: *Big Corona, Under the Lifeguard Stand* in situ.

NOTICING:

This agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the Board of Library Trustees considers the item).