

APPROVED
JAN 30 2006

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 06-25

DATE January 30, 2006

BOARD OF RECREATION
AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

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BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY – AMENDMENT TO PERSONAL SERVICES
CONTRACT NO. 3132 WITH ANDREW HOFMAN FOR 3-D ASTRONOMICAL
ANIMATION AND SPECIAL EFFECTS ARTISTRY FOR THE PLANETARIUM
SHOW

| | | | | |
|-------|------------|------------|-----------|-------|
| (for) | *B. Jensen | <u>KJK</u> | H. Fujita | _____ |
| | M. Shull | _____ | J. Kolb | _____ |
| | F. Mok | _____ | K. Regan | _____ |
| | S. Huntley | _____ | J. Combs | _____ |

K. Regan (for)
General Manager

Approved _____

Disapproved _____

Withdrawn _____

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve an amendment to personal services Contract No. 3132 with Andrew Hofman, substantially in the form attached, for additional expert creation and oversight of 3-D graphic effects, and animation of science and astronomical sequences, in development of the Griffith Observatory's planetarium show, extending the contract termination from February 15, 2006, to June 30, 2006, and increasing the contract maximum from \$292,500.00 to \$312,500.00, subject to approval of the Mayor and review and approval by the City Attorney as to form;
2. Find, pursuant to Charter Section 1022, that the Department does not have personnel available in its employ with sufficient expertise to undertake these specialized professional tasks in a timely manner, and that these services can be performed more feasibly by qualified independent contractors than by a City employee;
3. Direct the Board Secretary to transmit forthwith the proposed amendment to the Mayor in accordance with Executive Directive No. 3, and concurrently to the City Attorney for review and approval as to form; and,
4. Authorize the President and Secretary to execute the amendment upon receipt of necessary approvals.

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SUMMARY:

The Griffith Observatory will reopen in 2006 with the new state-of-the-art Samuel Oschin Planetarium theater. A laser-projected, all-dome video system with the capability to show high-definition 3-D video will replace the antiquated 35 mm slide system removed in 2002. A team of graphics specialists, 3-D animators, compositors, modelers, and production staff, funded by the Department and in part by the Friends Of The Observatory (FOTO), are working on the premiere show for the planetarium. The Department has undertaken the purchase of high quality, state-of-the-art graphics workstations, graphics software used in the most sophisticated current commercial animation motion pictures, and computer capacity to render complex five- and six-camera animated sequences. The animation team, on which Mr. Hofman was an early member and has become a key leader, has pushed the boundaries of typical animation to create a premiere show which will be more advanced than any like it. The use of the laser projection system, which will assist in presentation of a startlingly beautiful and affecting show, also presents unique technical and stylist challenges for the animation team that are carefully being surmounted through study and collaboration with the manufacturing team. Mr. Hofman is an expert in the effects field, with uniquely applicable knowledge, skills, abilities, and experience in graphics and effects for film, including alternative formats such as IMAX, and animation of science and astronomical sequences, and his insight, leadership, and learning are crucial to keeping the show production on track and to maintaining the excellent quality.

The initial contract term for Mr. Hofman was August 16, 2004, to February 15, 2006, for a contract maximum of \$292,500.00 (Board Report 04-229). The workload for key members of the animation team has extended in time, and funding is needed to cover the additional time, because production of the emerging technology used in the new laser projection system, under purchase by FOTO, has taken longer than first estimated. This means a longer time until animators can see the show at the Griffith Observatory and make final changes before rendering the production. Mr. Hofman's services will be needed for some period later than February 15, 2006, which is now the shipping date for the laser projectors. For the additional time, additional expenses will be incurred. In order to provide sufficient cushion, staff recommends extending the contract by about four months, and adding additional funds. The Department is under no obligation to expend more funds or utilize Mr. Hofman's services to the maximum amount; use of his services under this contract is on an as-needed basis. To date, Mr. Hofman's specialized services have been excellent and essential. The expertise applied by Mr. Hofman and other animators on contract is unlike any City employee expertise, and is needed only during production of shows for the planetarium.

FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT:

The Department's Budget for fiscal year 2005-2006 includes \$553,124.00 in contractual services funds for the Observatory, much of which is planned for Planetarium show production expenses. Mr. Hofman will be paid \$75 per hour on an as-needed basis, the same as his current rate. Sufficient funds for the addition to this contract are available in Department 88, Fund 302, Contractual Services Account 304, Activity 7800.