

**APPROVED**  
JUL 12 2006

REPORT OF GENERAL MANAGER

NO. 06-194

DATE July 12, 2006

**BOARD OF RECREATION  
and PARK COMMISSIONERS**

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BOARD OF RECREATION AND PARK COMMISSIONERS

SUBJECT: GRIFFITH OBSERVATORY – AMENDMENTS TO PERSONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS WITH JOHN CHRISTOPHER BUTLER AND SHAWN W. CROSBY FOR THE PRODUCTION OF ASTRONOMICAL VISUALIZATIONS FOR THE PLANETARIUM SHOW

|            |       |           |       |
|------------|-------|-----------|-------|
| *B. Jensen | _____ | H. Fujita | _____ |
| M. Shull   | _____ | J. Kolb   | _____ |
| F. Mok     | _____ | K. Regan  | _____ |
| S. Huntley | _____ | J. Combs  | _____ |

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
General Manager

Approved \_\_\_\_\_

Disapproved \_\_\_\_\_

Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Board:

1. Approve Amendments to Personal Services Contracts with John Christopher Butler (Contract No. 3128) and Shawn Crosby (Contract No. 3127) for specialized services for the production of a planetarium show at the renovated Griffith Observatory, extending the contract termination from August 10, 2006, to December 31, 2006, 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 the proposed Amendments to the Mayor in accordance with Executive Directive No. 3, and concurrently to the City Attorney for review as to form; and,
4. Authorize the Board President and Secretary to execute the Amendments upon receipt of necessary approvals.

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### SUMMARY:

Griffith Observatory will reopen in the fall of 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 3D video will replace the antiquated 35 mm slide system removed in 2002. Production of the first 30 minute planetarium show, with 20 minutes of full-dome video, already has been underway with in-house staff and 3D animators under contract to create a show unique to the Observatory. Personal Services Agreements with John Christopher Butler (Contract No. 3128) and Shawn Crosby (Contract No. 3127) were approved by the Board (Report No. 04-114) on April 7, 2004, to be among the specialized animators with scientific background needed to create the show.

The initial contract terms for Mr. Butler and Mr. Crosby were August 11, 2004, to August 10, 2006, for a contract maximum of \$115,500 each. The workload for key members of the animation team has extended in time because production of the emerging technology used in the new laser projection system, under purchase by Friends of the Observatory (FOTO), has taken longer than first estimated. This resulted in a longer time before animators could see the show in the Griffith Observatory dome and make final changes before rendering the production. Messrs. Butler and Crosby's services are needed for some period later than August 10, 2006. In order to provide sufficient time, staff recommends extending the contract by approximately four months, without adding additional funds. The Department is under no obligation to expend more funds or utilize Mr. Butler's or Mr. Crosby's services to the maximum amount; use of their services under these contracts is on an as-needed basis. To date, Mr. Butler and Mr. Crosby's specialized services have been excellent and essential. The expertise applied by Mr. Butler, Mr. Crosby, 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 consultants will continue to provide their services at a moderate hourly rate of \$32. The contract with Mr. Butler will continue to be paid from the Observatory's Municipal Recreation Program account (MRP 860). Mr. Crosby's contract will be paid from the Department's Contractual Services Account 304, Activity 7800. Sufficient funds are available in both accounts to pay for the contracts for the remainder of the amended term.

Report prepared by Heather Tarumoto, Griffith Observatory