



# MOUNTAINS RECREATION & CONSERVATION AUTHORITY

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## MEMORANDUM

TO: The Governing Board

FROM:  Joseph T. Edmiston, FAICP, Hon. ASLA, Executive Officer

DATE: September 18, 2012

SUBJECT: **Agenda Item VI(f): Consideration of resolution authorizing a professional services contract with the Mia Lehrer + Associates for design services for Franklin/Ivar Park project.**

Staff Recommendation: That the Governing Board adopt the attached resolution authorizing a professional services contract with the Mia Lehrer + Associates for design services for the Franklin/Ivar Park project in an amount not to exceed \$128,747.

Background: The Franklin/Ivar Park project is the conversion of a 0.83-acre vacant parcel at the intersection of Franklin and Ivar Avenues into a publicly-accessible natural park with an amphitheater, view areas, paths, seating, public art and gathering areas. Located in a densely built-out area of Hollywood, the site is bordered by an elevated off-ramp of interstate highway 101, the heavily-traveled Franklin and Ivar Avenues, and it is surrounded by multi-family residential buildings. The land is owned by the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy. A Memorandum of Understanding between the Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy and the Mountains Recreation and Conservation Authority for operation and maintenance of the park was authorized by both agencies in July 2012.

The project was spearheaded by the Hollywood Dell Civic Association (HDCA) and is a rarely found opportunity to add recreation, open space and natural habitat in an area with a critical lack of park space. In partnership with HDCA, MRCA applied for and received \$2,000,000 of Proposition 84 funding from California State Parks through the competitive Statewide Park Development and Community Revitalization program.

As part of the HDCA's community based planning for the grant, Mia Lehrer + Associates donated over forty *pro bono* hours in twelve community meetings held between November 2010 and June 2011. During this process Mia Lehrer + Associates (ML+A) established a relationship with the community and the local school children, and made a commitment to see the project through to completion.

Mia Lehrer + Associates also provided a *pro bono* full color design schematic for the grant application. HDCA approached Mia Lehrer + Associates initially based upon multiple recommendations from the Hollywood Beatification Team, Councilman Tom LaBonge's office, and MRCA's Chief of Urban Projects and Watershed Division. MRCA previously worked with ML+A on the Vista Hermosa Natural Park and Confluence Park projects, and the firm performed satisfactorily.

Section 3.3 of the MRCA's Purchasing and Contracting Procedures state that for professional services contracts:

The Purchasing Agent shall determine demonstrated competence and qualifications of the services at fair and reasonable prices by reviewing the following documents to be submitted by the professional: 1) a list of the names and contact information for clients for which services were performed in the last five years; 2) samples of the services performed including the scope and cost; 3) a disclosure of any actions taken against the professional; and, 4) a statement of change order(s) to plans or specifications or projects for which services were provided and the reason for the change order(s).

Based on a review of this information, MRCA's past experience with the firm, and ML+A's existing knowledge of the project, staff recommends using ML+A for design services on the Franklin/Ivar Park project.

ML+A submitted a proposal in the amount of \$117,043 for Schematic Design, Design Development, Construction Documents and Construction Administration professional services. In addition to the landscape architecture services provided by ML+A, the proposal includes civil engineering provided by Barbara L. Hall, PE, Inc., IDG Structural Engineering, Turpin and Rattan Electrical Engineers, and Wallace Laboratories soil testing. A topographic survey has already been obtained and geotechnical services will be procured by MRCA when the project has progressed into the design development phase. Staff recommends that the Board approve 10% more than the proposal amount to allow for contingencies and additional required services that are not known at this time.

Consideration: The proposed action would authorize a professional services contract to Mia Lehrer + Associates for design services in an amount not to exceed \$128,747. The contract will be funded through the existing State Parks grant for the project.