

08-1233-S1

MOTION ARTS, PARKS, HEALTH & AGING

At a recent joint hearing of the Planning, Land Use & Management and Arts, Parks, Health & Aging committees the issue of how to protect existing murals while at the same time developing a new policy for permitting new murals was discussed. While some progress was made on adopting a new policy, no solution was found for existing ones.

The Department of Building & Safety is obligated to investigate all complaints made to it by residents. Since April of 2002, new mural signs have been prohibited in most parts of the City. Enforcement on murals erected before this time is more complex, as many had received approvals while others lack paperwork to prove when they were originally done.

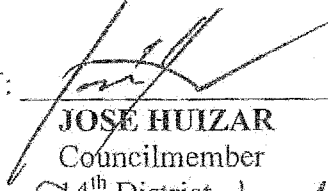
Adding to this confusion is the fact that prior to 2002-03, when funding was cut, the City used to have a program in conjunction with SPARC to obtain agreements with building owners for 5 to 10 years obligating them to maintain murals on their properties. Since then, Cultural Affairs has taken over mural management for the City, with few resources.


Potential funding sources exist to restore this program. The proposed billboard tax is one. Another is the new Graffiti Reward Trust Fund, which collects civil and criminal fines collected from taggers who vandalize both public and private property. Additional funds will be needed if the City decides to adopt a Portland-style public arts easement program.

The City needs to devise a new strategy for protecting historic murals, which in addition to the threat of vandalism and natural wear and tear must now contend with being eradicated after being ruled unpermitted. Murals that have existed for over eight years should already be familiar to everyone and enforcement around them should not be a top City priority.

I THEREFORE MOVE that the Council declare a moratorium on the issuance of notices to remove murals that property owners have evidence were completed prior to April of 2002, when the City adopted its comprehensive Sign Ordinance. This action should remain in place until such time as the City has developed a policy for dealing with older murals.

I FURTHER MOVE that the Cultural Affairs Department, Building & Safety Department, the City Attorney and representatives of the mural community should be requested to form a working group to look at how the City can restore funding for a program to convince building owners to maintain murals located on their properties for a set number of years.

PRESENTED BY: 
JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember
14th District


TOM LABONGE
Councilmember
4th District

SECONDED BY: 

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2010

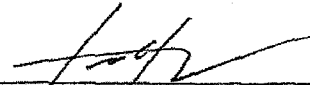
MOTION ARTS, PARKS, HEALTH & AGING

Murals have been created throughout Los Angeles by artists from diverse artistic and cultural traditions and backgrounds. The City has recently undertaken efforts to ensure that processes are in place to protect and preserve murals on both public and private property. The City Council and City staff are currently assessing the permitting process to ensure that these culturally significant works of art are preserved.

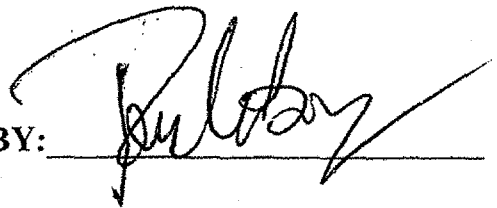
There has been a significant increase in the issuance of citations relative to murals which are painted on private property. The citations ultimately result in the murals being removed from private property in order to comply with building and safety codes for mural signs or advertisements. These murals are an integral part of cultural expression in the City of Los Angeles. While the City is conducting its analysis, it is important that these murals be protected until the City formally adopts procedures for permitting murals on private property.

I THEREFORE MOVE, that the City Council, requests that the Department of Building and Safety and the Planning Department cease from issuing citations or notices to comply for murals signs ordinances until the City has established a permitting process for fine art murals on private property .

PRESENTED BY: _____


JOSE HUIZAR
Councilmember, 14th District

SECONDED BY: _____



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