



Date: March 13, 2025
To: Board of Directors
From: David Aranda, Interim General Manager
Subject: General Manager's Report For February 9, 2025 Through March 7, 2025

Background

My report for the month is very brief. As you can imagine, looking at the agenda we have for our March 13, 2025 meeting I have spent the majority of time gathering information and working on the agenda items attached.

The other items I was involved in over the past month were working on a new Memorandum of Understanding for the Kensington Police Officers Association and the day to day needs of the District which involves a good amount of correspondence on various items.

Any specific questions are welcomed.

Exhibit(s)

- Food Mill Note
- Letter of Intent for Arts in Parks Grant Submission (DRAFT)

Item #11a

From: Ben Hanes <hanesfamily@mac.com>

Sent: Saturday, March 8, 2025 8:08 PM

To: Sydney Yang Hoffman <sydney.yang.hoffman@mill.com>

Cc: Rosa Ruiz <RRuiz@kppcsd.org>; Ondine Boulter <ondineboulter@gmail.com>; David Aranda <DAranda@kppcsd.org>

Subject: Re: Food mill

Hi Sydney, Rosa, and David,

I just wanted to take a moment to thank you all for making the Mill program available to Kensington residents. We received our Mill composter and couldn't be happier with it! In just a short time, we've already composted 30 pounds of solid food waste, and we're excited to continue reducing our household waste impact.

We truly appreciate the coordination and effort that went into making this program accessible, and we're grateful to be a part of it. Thank you again for your help in bringing this to our community!

Best,

Ben Hanes & Ondine Boulter

Letter of Intent for Arts in Parks Grant Submission (DRAFT)

This document is a Letter of Intent (LOI) to apply for a 2025 Arts in California Parks Grant. The grant funds a nine-month planning process to design a permanent art installation in Kensington Park, and determine how it will be used and maintained. The installation seeks to build Kensington's relationship with the local Indigenous people, Lisjan Nation, while improving the park through beautification and sustainability. If the LOI is accepted, a full grant application would be developed for submission. More information about the grant is available here: https://artsincaliforniaparks.org/wp-content/uploads/Planning_Development-Grant_LOI-Application_Scoresheet_FINAL.pdf

Partners:

Kensington Police Protection and Community Services District (KPPCSD) – David Aranda, General Manager
 Good Guest Kensington (GGK) – Susanna Marshland, Core Team Member
 Confederated Villages of Lisjan Ohlone (Lisjan Nation) – Melanie Lacy Kusters

Project Name Karki (“Reciprocity”) in Kensington

Project Address: Kensington Park Road, Kensington CA 94708

Grant Request Amount \$45,799

Project Summary

Inspired by the invitation offered by the Lisjan Ohlone (aka Lisjan Nation) for non-Indigenous peoples to be good guests on their land, we propose to create an educational, experiential, permanent art installation to recognize and foster the practice of reciprocity (“Karki” in the Chochenyo language). Through the power of public art, we aim to: make visible that the town lies within Lisjan Nation (LN) territory; invite contemplation about our connection with LN, the land, and all of its beings; offer education about the LN people past and present and Kensington's colonial history; and create a visible reminder of Kensington's ongoing commitment to live in right relationship with LN. The site will provide a meeting spot for our annual Indigenous People's Day (IPD) events, offer an experiential encounter for park visitors curious about the history and stewardship of this land, and encourage reciprocal connections among all the various members of our community, as we knit our common future together from our disparate histories.

Our working vision is of a walkable area that incorporates sculptural elements, perhaps stones representing the shape of a traditional roundhouse; educational elements such as the demarcation of the creek that once flowed there and/or signage or storytelling embedded in the pathways or benches; and multisensory, experiential aspects that foster connection, curiosity, contemplation, and conversation. With the selected artist, we will seek community input to explore ways to welcome and connect diverse peoples; to highlight the traditions and ongoing stewardship of Indigenous communities; to incorporate and steward ecologically important

native species; to incorporate shapes, patterns, and materials found in Indigenous arts, the local geography, and ecosystem (e.g., sun/moon/stars, horizon lines, circles); to add physical or textural elements such as patterned or climbable stones; to incorporate light or sound elements reflecting natural rhythms; and ideas for our annual IPD cultural programming.

The highly visible location will be in the upper park immediately adjacent to the elementary school and heavily utilized pathways to the afterschool area, enabling access by foot and by road, and providing a ready educational platform for the next generation. Despite its centrality to schools, a library, and a community center, the park consists primarily of an unadorned grass area, tennis courts, and a play structure. A public educational art installation, grounded in Indigenous culture and honest narratives about our town's past and present, would further establish the park – and the town – as an integral community gathering space for people of all ages and backgrounds. The intended audience is all park visitors, including the nearly 2000 youth attending after school and summer programs; members of the LN; and neighboring communities of El Cerrito, Richmond, and Albany, who also would benefit from a visible reminder of the LN.

Planning/Community Engagement

Our community engagement plan weaves together three strands of activity: gathering project input, building relationships, and learning. By the end of the grant, we will not only have a plan for building and maintaining an art installation in Kensington Park. Kensington residents and LN will also have engaged with the question: what does it mean to be in reciprocity with each other and with the land itself?

Project partners will determine the design concept, specific location of the installation within the park, and the artist. Community engagement will build on those decisions to shape many other aspects of the project. We will begin by listening to LN. Guided by our LN partners, we will ask the tribe how this project can best serve their community, what design visions they are holding, and how they wish to be involved in its creation and maintenance. LN input will also help shape the plan for Kensington community engagement by informing the kinds of questions we ask Kensington residents and the learning opportunities we offer them.

We will launch the Kensington community engagement process in October, during the town's fourth annual IPD event. The event, held in the park, will invite residents to hear from LN members; learn about LN past and present; learn about the project; find out how they can give input; and tell us of skills they would like to contribute to the project. Residents can join an email list to receive project updates.

Over the next several months, Kensington residents will share input on topics including: usage of the installation; design elements; participation in production and maintenance. We will seek input from a diversity of Kensington residents based on demographics (e.g., age, income, race/ethnicity) and relevant expertise (e.g., land care, art). We will hear from leaders of civic groups (e.g., Kensington Community Council) and managers of public spaces (e.g., Blake

Garden). We will seek extensive feedback from Kensington Hilltop Elementary School and Kensington Library, who will be heavy users of the installation. To maximize access and inclusion, we will notify residents about the project and input process in multiple ways: email outreach through community groups; local newspaper; print materials mailed to every home; community group websites and meetings; tables at community events (e.g., annual picnic, farmer's market); signs on public kiosks and in windows of retail stores. Project partners' existing relationships with all of these groups will strengthen outreach effectiveness. We will gather input in a variety of ways: community workshops (in-person and virtual, with one for youth); surveys; and conversations (individual calls, house parties). LN members will attend some input meetings to support relationship building and coordination. To support this work, we will hire a community engagement consultant who has experience with public arts projects and working with Indigenous communities.

Artist Selection

The project partners are in agreement about identifying an artist who is a member of Lisjan Nation or another local tribal group. We have outlined additional criteria for our ideal candidate: lives in the Bay Area, and has experience developing outdoor art installations with an educational element and structural or sculptural objects. They will need to be able to create initial concept drawings and a final rendering. If they don't have expertise with landscape design, they will need to have the capacity to collaborate with landscape designers, including the park's landscaper and/or LN native plant experts to develop any lighting or native plant elements. We welcome an artist who is new to working in a park setting and offering them our community's support to expand their skillset. Finally, our ideal candidate will be highly collaborative, capable of interacting effectively with both residents and elementary school students.

We will rely on our partner the LN to reach out to their community to identify a suitable artist(s), using the state's artist list as a resource as well. Should there be more than one candidate, the interview team (likely Good Guest Kensington core team members, at least 2 KPPCSD board members, at least 1 LN member, and 1 or more local artists) will invite these candidates to an interview, conduct interviews, review past work and/or references, and collectively recommend the finalist to be hired. The interview team will follow the lead of our LN partner in creating interview questions that are culturally responsive, welcoming, and thoughtful. Our partnership team is excited to have the opportunity to promote the work of a local Indigenous artist through this process.

Ideally, we will identify the artist in time to have them inform the content of and participate in our community engagement process starting in October. In particular, we would like them to be present for the youth-focused events at the local elementary school adjacent to the park and/or at the afterschool program in the park. Our local library is willing to host an educational event so that the artist could teach students about their own art-making practice. In these ways, the artist will serve as inspiration for youth who are interested in pursuing art and/or learning about the design process. Depending on the timing of events, the elementary school may also be able to

integrate a community input event into its recently updated curriculum on Indigenous history in CA.

As relevant, we will include the artist in building on our preliminary conversations with the Sogorea Te' Land Trust (STLT), a close affiliate of the LN who brings their experience with similar installations such as O'okwe Park; the local Scouts troop, who may assist with site maintenance alongside park staff; the Kensington Community Council, who might host educational experiences for youth at the site; and the Kensington Improvement Council, who may be a source of matching funds.

Cultural Relevance

This project hopes to catalyze a new narrative for the town of Kensington: living in right relationship with the Indigenous people whose land we occupy, and with the land itself. "Karki" will be a physical symbol of the town's vision to live in this way. Through its many design elements, it will also inspire specific actions by park visitors to help enact that vision. With this tangible addition to the town park, Kensington will also join a growing movement across the Bay Area, including neighboring towns of Richmond, Albany, Berkeley and Oakland, who are choosing to live as good guests on Indigenous land. "Karki" will serve not only Kensington residents, but the region and LN. It will be a site of change within a larger web.

Changing the narrative requires Kensington to reckon with its past and present. Like many towns across the Bay Area, Kensington's founding in 1917 was made possible through the violence of colonization which harmed both Indigenous people and the land. Indigenous people were subjected to physical violence, illness and displacement, among many other crimes. The land was devastated and reshaped in non-sustainable ways to make way for houses and businesses; most of Cerrito Creek was buried and plant and wildlife habitats were disrupted. Today, Kensington is a majority white community with a high level of homeownership and access to wealth. The Indigenous people who call this place home, both in the past and today, are not present in Kensington in any significant way. Facing this difficult history is a necessary step in Kensington's journey towards being a more unified and resilient community. "Karki," especially through its educational elements, will support that work.

Kensington is well suited and ready for a project like "Karki". An unincorporated town of 5,400 people, Kensington is a place where residents are very involved and it's possible to make change both big and small. Bordering three cities and Tilden Park, it's also a place of mixing and integration, where people from neighboring towns are part of Kensington's daily life, as Kensington Hilltop Elementary School families, Arlington Church members, visitors to Blake Garden or shoppers at Young's Market.

For the past four years, Kensington has also been learning about LN and what it means to live as good guests on their homeland. This work is facilitated by one of the project partners, Good Guest Kensington (GGK), who has relationships with LN and Sogorea Te' Land Trust. GGK's

educational programs, consultations, land acknowledgements, signage and calls to action engage Kensington residents as well as people in neighboring towns. Through GGK's work, we know that the truth of living on LN land is an idea that crosses divides: from age, class and race to town borders. A project like "Karki" that explores this truth becomes a place of meaningful connection. It will grow from work that is already happening and well received.

Budget

Category	Amount	Detail
Salary and Benefits	2500	Staff time & benefits for lead agency KPPCSD General Manager David Aranda to engage consultants, attend meetings, oversee project and grant, obtain construction bids; Landscaper Fernando Herrera to mark out site.
Fees assoc w/ artist selection	0	included with S&B line item above and community engagement line below.
Artist fees	15,000	\$12,000 to attend community meetings (including a youth event), create 2-3 concept drawings, complete final renderings. \$250/hr x 12 hrs for native plant and Indigenous visioning consultation with Sogorea Te' Land Trust.
Art materials	0	Included with artist fees
Communications and community engagement	22,325	Consultant to facilitate community input workshops @ 32 hours @\$250/hr; a second at 6 hours at \$250/hr to design survey questions, create link, and compile results. Printing costs for fliers, handouts, and paper surveys (800 pages averaging .50/page). Postcard printing and mailing (\$1900). Lisjan Nation consultation time as cultural experts, 17 hours for workshops + 4 hrs/month x 8 mos. for cultural consultation at \$200/hr. Flier and mailer design @\$400. Refreshments for community meeting(s) @ \$200. Tablecloth runner at \$125.
Indirect costs	5,974	At 15% for indirect costs (administrative staff, rent/utilities, insurance, telecommunications, bookkeeper time to record and track expenses, etc.)
Matching Funds	14,800	Volunteer time from GGK members: 4 hrs/mo/4 ppl * 8 months @\$75/hr for project coordination, consultant and artist selection, community outreach; 2 KPPCSD board members at 4 hrs/month * 8 months @\$75/hr.
TOTAL	60,599	