



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

M E M O R A N D U M

DATE: August 17, 2017

TO: Balboa Park Committee
Agenda of September 7, 2017

FROM: Bruce Martinez, Deputy Director, Park and Recreation Department

SUBJECT: House of Charm Courtyard Fencing

SUMMARY

Issue – Should the Balboa Park Committee recommend approval of the custom fence design proposed for the House of Charm expansion?

Department Recommendation

1. The Department does not have a recommendation.

Other Recommendations – Historical Resources staff of the City Development Services Department have determined the proposed fence design is consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation of Historic Properties.

On September 1, 2016 the Balboa Park Committee voted to recommend approval of the proposed General Development Plan for the House of Charm and to advise the proposed project is consistent with the Balboa Park Master Plan and Central Mesa Precise Plan. The proposed fence design was not a part of that recommendation

Fiscal Statement – There is no fiscal impact associated with this action.

Environmental Review – The City of San Diego prepared an Exemption from CEQA pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines. The proposed fencing has been determined to be consistent with the Secretary of The Interior's Standards for rehabilitation of historic properties. Therefore no additional CEQA review is required.

Code Enforcement Impact – None

Housing Impact – None

BACKGROUND

The House of Charm was originally constructed for the 1915 Panama-California International Exposition as a two story building. Many of the exposition buildings in the park were intended to be temporary, and the House of Charm was no exception. After considerable deterioration the House of Charm was reconstructed by the City in 1996. During the reconstruction the building interior was modified for new and modern uses; however, the exterior of the building was reconstructed in accordance with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards. A basement level was also added in the reconstruction.

Reconstruction of the House of Charm building included a loading dock area on the south side, with a driveway connecting to the access road leading to the Alcazar Lot. On September 1, 2016 the Balboa Park Committee recommended approval of the proposed General Development Plan (GDP) to enclose the loading dock area, among other improvements. The roof of the enclosed loading dock is to be a sculpture courtyard that would be accessible to the public. The original GDP indicated a simple ornamental iron fence and gate to secure the sculpture courtyard at times when the Mingei Museum is closed.

DISCUSSION

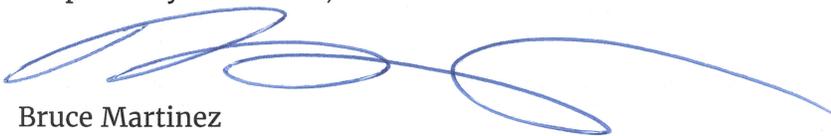
The Mingei Museum is proposing a change to the simple ornamental iron fence originally proposed to surround and secure the sculpture courtyard. The proposed design would use hand-formed steel plates set vertically to form a secure fence. The fence would have a bronzed finish. This design is significantly different from any fencing found within Balboa Park. The closest example would be the fence that surrounds the Museum of Art sculpture garden, which consists of galvanized steel posts set vertically in a concrete curb. This fence was constructed at the same time as the west wing of the Museum of Art, circa 1966. The fence proposed by the Mingei Museum would tend to draw attention to its unique design as opposed to other fences and railings found in the park that provide a simple barrier.

The Central Mesa Precise Plan Architecture guidelines state; "*Historically significant buildings will preserve their characteristic features by locating additions in non-public areas that have a minimal impact on original Exposition site relationships. Additions to non-historic buildings will be visually compatible with surrounding historic architecture and will preserve or restore original Exposition site relationships.*" The Design Guidelines also state; "*All design proposals for new structures or modifications to existing structures within the historic landmark should closely adhere to the established historic design themes.*" Additionally; "*All architecture in the 1915 Prado areas should exhibit the Spanish Colonial style.*"

ALTERNATIVES

1. Recommend approval of the proposed fence design with modifications.
2. Do not recommend approval of the proposed fence design.

Respectfully submitted,

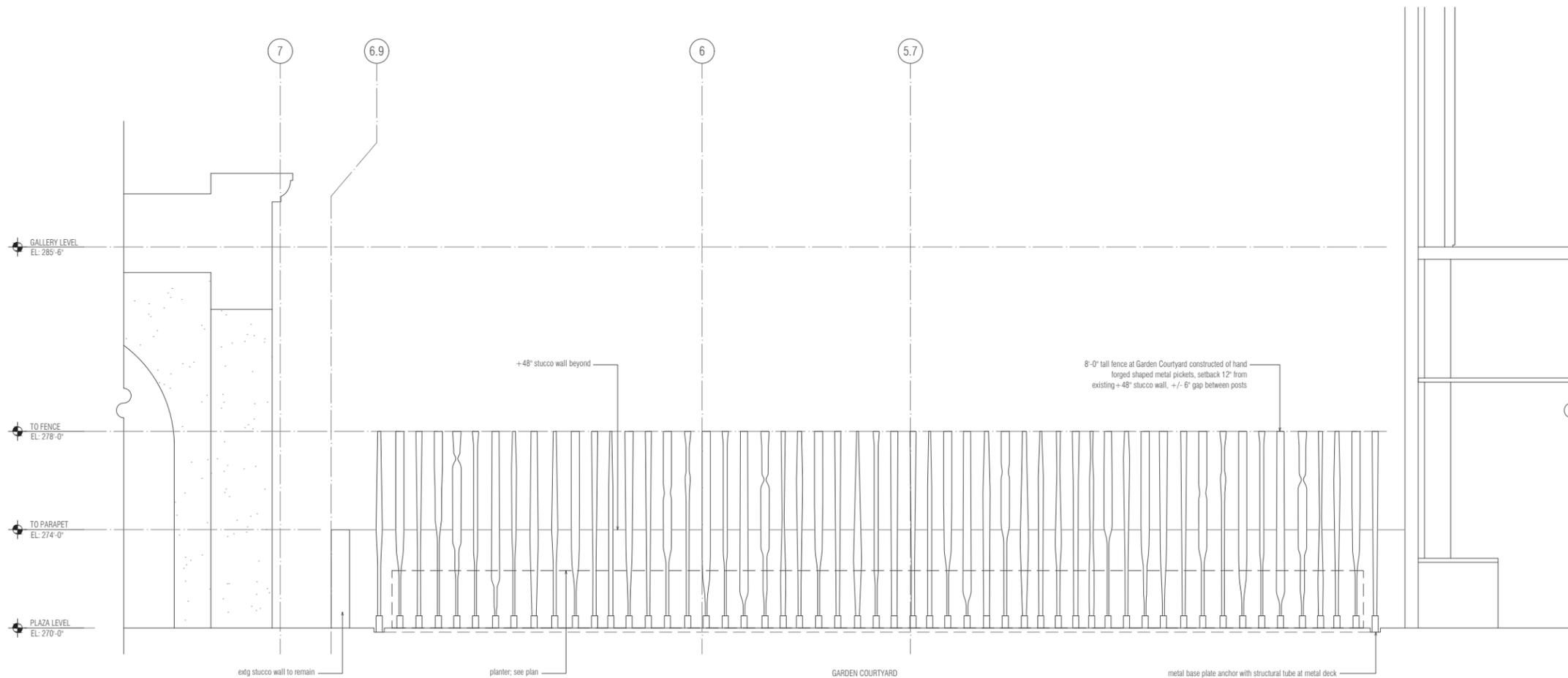


Bruce Martinez
Deputy Director

BEM/cpd

Attachment: Fence Drawings

6/30/2017 | S:\PROJECTS\Mingei Museum\3.0 Drawings & CAD\CAD-PPF



1 south elevation at garden courtyard
SCALE: 1/2" = 1'-0"

MINGEI INTERNATIONAL MUSEUM

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ISSUANCE

06.30.2017

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Park and Recreation Review

ENLARGED ELEVATION

