

**DATE:** November 28, 1988

**TO:** CITY OF SANTA MONICA  
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION  
Mr. Jeff Mathieu  
Mr. Darryl George  
1685 Main St. Room 206  
Santa Monica, CA 90401

**FROM:** MUSCLE BEACH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION  
P.O.Box 7  
Santa Monica, CA 90406

**SUBJECT:** I) Follow-up proposal for specific creation/  
of Santa Monica Muscle Beach monument or  
landmark.  
  
II) Second tier considerations for Santa Monica  
youth and local resident recreation services  
at area development located south of the  
Santa Monica Pier.

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**I. SPECIFIC PROPOSAL FOR MUSCLE BEACH MONUMENT/LANDMARK.**

At our preliminary meeting with you earlier this year, the Muscle Beach Alumni Association respectfully requested that the City of Santa Monica Economic Development Division and Santa Monica City Council provide approval for installation of a permanent monument or landmark at Santa Monica's original Muscle Beach site. This document is to provide more specific follow-up details, as you requested.

As we expressed in our original proposal, Santa Monica's Muscle Beach has represented one of the world's most famous outdoor recreation and athletic performance facilities of this century. Moreover, there is no dispute among athletic competitors, officials and participants alike in the sports of gymnastics, weight-lifting and bodybuilding, that the explosion of physical fitness popularity in the past several-decades was prompted most significantly by the positive influences of Muscle Beach. World-famous names such as Steve Reeves, Jack LaLane, Vic and Armand Tanny are just a few of the tremendous success stories related to Muscle Beach. And there are dozens more.

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As a consequence of the contributions of the many fine gymnastics, weight training, and physique athletes who originated from Muscle Beach, Santa Monica has become world-famous for its model support of physical fitness. And, ultimately, subsequent influential names such as Arnold Schwarzenegger and Franco Columbo arrived in Santa Monica to achieve their marks as a direct result of what Muscle Beach established. And the rest, naturally, has been the physical fitness popularity which we've all witnessed.

Therefore, we of the Muscle Beach Alumni Association believe it is in the best interest of both the international athletic community and the city of Santa Monica that out of pride and civic respect Santa Monica's Muscle Beach be acknowledged for the very special meaning it has had in the hearts of its hundreds of healthy patrons, and the many more thousands of tourists who will enjoy its identification in the future as a result of its recognition by a monument.

With those factors of its societal and cultural impact as a preface, we submit that a Muscle Beach monument or landmark be incorporated in the developments yet-to-come at that area South of the Santa Monica Pier, and adjacent to the Santa Monica Lifeguard's station at Arcadia Terrace.

While the specifics of this monument/landmark are yet-to-be determined, we respectfully submit recommendation that it represent the special characteristics and activities that made Santa Monica's Muscle Beach world-famous: acrobatics, physical culture, and a feeling of the space and freedom of spirit provided by the Santa Monica Beach. We have provided the attachment with examples of artistic executions which we hope you will consider as appropriate style ideas for the proposed Muscle Beach monument.

### II. SEPARATE AND SECONDARY CONSIDERATIONS FOR SANTA MONICA YOUTH/RESIDENT RECREATION SERVICES SOUTH OF THE SANTA MONICA PIER, AS REQUESTED BY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIVISION.

With particular consideration of the diverse needs of the city of Santa Monica's youth, as well as the somewhat limited availability of current city youth recreation facilities and opportunities, we believe two recreation additions south of the Santa Monica Pier would serve to strengthen and enhance the community's provisions in this area. The follow two pages outline our suggestions.

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### POSSIBILITY #1: MULTI-PURPOSE PLATFORM

A 45' x 45' platform to serve as a permanent structure throughout the year for both recreation/athletic and entertainment purposes.

This platform would lend itself immediately to a wide variety of functions: children and adult gymnastics training, demonstrations, world-class competitions, tai-chi, judo, karate, dance, dramatic arts, as well as various festival and community displays.

The ideal type of construction suited for this structure would be bonded wood in a possible combination with fiberglass; concrete would not provide the resilience or shock-absorbing characteristics required.

### POSSIBILITY #2: COMPLETE GYMNASTICS CENTER UPGRADE

To enhance, upgrade, or replace current gymnastics equipment. The following is a list of proposed new/replacement gymnastics devices which would improve Santa Monica's recreation facilities for both youth and adult benefit in the future:

1. Travel Rings, 2 sets
  - 1 adult length
  - 1 child length
2. High Rings
3. Medium-High Rings
4. Low Rings
5. Horizontal Bars
  - 3 sets
6. Parallel Bars
  - 2 sets side-by-side (standard size)
  - 2 sets side-by-side (medium size)
7. Handstand Bars
  - 3 sets (various dimensions to accommodate both children and adults)
8. Uneven Parallel Bars
  - 2 sets (1 standard set, 1 children's set)
9. Balance Beams
  - 1 standard
  - 1 low
10. 1 Short Horse-Vault
11. 1 Side Horse
12. 2 Ropes (overhead attachments)

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13. Children's Play area (for 4-12 year-olds)
  - slides, swings
  - junior gymnastics
  - childrens travel rings, etc.
14. Portable Gymnastics mats and storage facility
15. Part-time and/or full-time recreation staff for south-of-Pier playground(s).

We thank you for your attention to this issue and the opportunity to submit our proposal for your review and decision. Please advise us as to our next step in proceeding further. We look forward to working with you and remain available to assist and support the city of Santa Monica with either technical support or assistance on this and/or any related projects.

Respectfully submitted,



Stephen J. Ford

ON BEHALF OF:

Muscle Beach Alumni Association

cc: Glenn Sundby; members of MBAA  
Members of Santa Monica City Council  
Darlene Galindo, Muscle Beach Venice  
Arnold Schwarzenegger  
Joe Gold, World Gym  
Pete Grymkowski/Derek Barton, Gold's Gym  
Henry Korn, S.M.A.R.T.S.  
Louise Gabriel, Santa Monica Historical Society  
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