STATEMENT ON THE SUBJECT:
The City Council will consider participating in Statues for Equality, a project developed by artists Gillie and Marc to install statues of women throughout the country in order to balance the gender representation in public art and create tangible change one statue at a time.

RECOMMENDATIONS:
1) Direct staff to present the Statues for Equality project to the Women’s Advisory Board, the Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission, and the Public Facilities Commission, and based on the input received, develop a proposal to participate in the Statues for Equality project.
2) Return to City Council with the draft proposal for consideration, including recommendations for who to feature, potential locations in the City for the installation, and a request for funding for the project.

BACKGROUND / ANALYSIS:
In nearly every country in the world, women only make up two to three percent of the public statues. As of 2011, of the estimated 5,193 public statues depicting historic figures on display on street corners and parks throughout the United States, only 394 of these monuments are of women (about 8%). Public statues are often a reflection of a society’s values and the things they find important. The lack of women’s representation is problematic because leaving their narratives out from public art takes away from the significant roles that women have played in history. It is important for women to be included equally in this visual depiction and to tell stories of success and empowerment.

Statues for Equality is a project started by artists Gillie and Marc to help balance the gender representation in public art and create tangible change one statue at a time. By creating everlasting bronze statues of some of the most inspirational women of our time, Statues for Equality honors women’s contributions to society and spreads their inspiration to the world. Gillie and Marc work to re-design what public art should be, spreading
messages of love, equality, and conservation around the world. Their highly coveted sculptures and paintings can be seen in art galleries and public sites in over 250 cities. The artistic duo has worked side by side for more than 30 years, creating art as one and spreading the love they have for each other with the world.

Statues for Equality is not only a project of Gillie and Marc. They are calling on the entire world to become a part of this movement for gender equality through public art. They are asking the public to become actively involved by nominating women who should be honored with a statue and spreading the word. They are calling for cities and businesses to commission more statues of inspiring women and to offer up public spaces to house the new works. They are also calling on artists to help them to reach their aim of 50% representation of women in public statues around the world by 2025.

There are other organizations, in addition to Statues for Equality, working to break the bronze ceiling. Monumental Women is a nonprofit organization founded in 2014 to create the first statue of real women in New York’s Central Park. The Park has statues of Alice in Wonderland, Mother Goose, Juliet with Romeo, witches, nymphs, and angels – but no real women. Based on the organization’s efforts, a state of women’s rights pioneers Sojourner Truth, Susan B. Anthony, and Elizabeth Cady Stanton will be unveiled on August 26, 2020, the centennial anniversary of the ratification of the 19th Amendment to the constitution.

This item provides direction to staff to present the Statues for Equality program to the Women’s Advisory Board, the Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission, and the Public Facilities Commission. Based on the input and feedback received from these bodies, staff will develop a proposal to participate in the Statues for Equality program. The community input should include suggestions on possible women to highlight in the program, as well as possible locations in the City to install the permanent bronze sculpture and a breakdown of potential costs for the program and a request for funding. The City has a process for artists to propose temporary public art and has a process for the approval of memorials and memorial plaques. Staff will take these processes into consideration when developing the proposal for moving forward.

**CONFORMANCE WITH VISION 2020 AND THE GOALS OF THE WEST HOLLYWOOD GENERAL PLAN:**

This item is consistent with the Primary Strategic Goal(s) (PSG) and/or Ongoing Strategic Program(s) (OSP) of:

- OSP-8: Enhance the Cultural and Creative Life of the Community.
- OSP-11: Community Education.

In addition, this item is compliant with the following goal(s) of the West Hollywood General Plan:
• G-1: Ensure that the community is active and engaged in the decision-making process.
• HS-2: Support and encourage arts and culture in West Hollywood.

EVALUATION PROCESSES:
N/A

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND HEALTH:
N/A

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:
The proposal to participate in the Statues for Equality program will be considered by the Women’s Advisory Board, the Arts & Cultural Affairs Commission, and the Public Facilities Commission before moving forward.

OFFICE OF PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY:
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT / ARTS DIVISION

FISCAL IMPACT:
None at this time. Bronze sculptures can cost up to $200,000. As part of the Statues for Equality program, the artists are co-funding each statue, bringing down the costs to cities substantially. Depending on the size and location of the statue, the costs will range from $16,000 to $60,000, plus delivery and installation. Staff will return to Council with a request for funding along with recommendations from WAB, ACAC, and PFC on moving forward.