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Eli Broad's museum OK'd by supervisors, making it virtually a done deal

August 17, 2010 | 2:38 pm

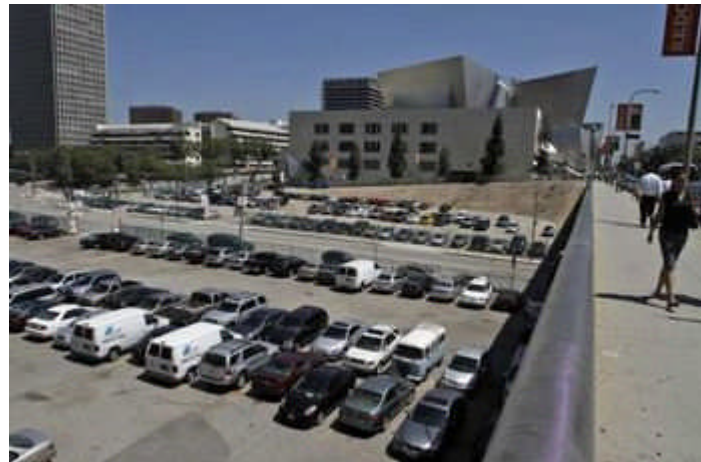
While Eli Broad's downtown museum still needs one more agency's approval before it gets its official green light, Tuesday's 5-0 approval by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors means that it is more or less a sure thing.

The vote scheduled for Monday by the last agency whose OK is needed -- the Grand Avenue Authority, a joint powers authority of state and local officials -- would seem to be a mere formality, given that all four of its voting members are now publicly on record as supporters of the \$80-million to \$100-million project.

The museum would plant the 2,000-work contemporary art collection of the billionaire philanthropist and his wife, Edythe, at Grand Avenue and 2nd Street, a literal stone's throw from Walt Disney Concert Hall and the Museum of Contemporary Art.

The biggest question mark now is Broad himself. He continued to stay mum after Tuesday's vote as to whether a [rival site](#) offered by the city of Santa Monica still has a chance. Broad's spokeswoman, Karen Denne, said he won't announce his decision until the Grand Avenue Authority acts. Broad is [on record](#) as leaning toward the downtown site because it dovetails with his longtime goal of revitalizing downtown L.A., and he thinks the museum would draw better downtown, where it would enjoy synergy with MOCA as an across-the-street neighbor.

The Grand Avenue Authority's chair, Supervisor Gloria Molina, and its vice-chair, Los Angeles council member Jan Perry, have now cast votes to amend the original 2007 development plan to replace about 100,000 square feet of retail space with the 120,000-square-foot museum. William T Fujioka,



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