

## Exploratorium wants 50 years free rent from port officials

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**(08-11) 18:35 PDT SAN FRANCISCO** -- The proposed waterfront Exploratorium museum is poised to receive 50 years of free rent from the Port of San Francisco in exchange for performing additional repair work on the piers the museum would occupy.

The Port Commission will decide whether to change the agreement with the museum at a meeting Tuesday. The current agreement provides for three decades of rent credit.

In 2006, the port and the Exploratorium executed a three-year exclusive negotiating agreement in which the museum would spend nearly \$100 million to repair and retrofit the decrepit piers 15-17 and build a new museum. In return, the museum would obtain a 66-year lease that would enable it to move from the Palace of Fine Arts, its home since 1969.

As part of that deal, the museum stood to receive roughly \$18.5 million in free rent from the port over about a 30-year period. But construction costs have escalated to \$175 million, mainly due to increased pier repair costs, port project manager Jennifer Sobol said.

As part of the new agreement, the museum would get about \$30 million in rent credit over a 50-year period, she said.