



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

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MEETING MINUTES
PUBLIC ART & PLACEMENT ADVISORY BOARD
8TH FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM, CITY HALL
100 N. ANDREWS AVENUE
FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33312
DECEMBER 21, 2022 – 1:00 P.M.

MEMBERS		PRESENT	ABSENT
Sarah Glass, Chair	P	5	2
Martha Steinkamp, Vice Chair	P	6	1
Phoenix Marks	P	7	0
Andrew Martineau	P	6	0
Gregory Reed	P	2	1
Robyn Vegas	A	4	3

As of this date, there are 6 appointed members to the Board, which means 4 would constitute a quorum.

Staff Present

Joshua Carden, Cultural Affairs Officer
Carla Blair, Recording Secretary, Prototype, Inc.

Communication to the City Commission

None.

Roll Call

Chair Glass called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was present.

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes – 10/31/22

Vice Chair Steinkamp suggested that the following clarification be added to p.5, paragraph 7 of the October 31, 2022 minutes: in addition to the brief time frame in which the Board was asked to approve a piece of artwork, it should also be noted that they were concerned with a lack of information from the Mayor’s office regarding the artwork. It was determined that this clarification would be reflected in the current minutes.

Motion made by Ms. Marks, seconded by Mr. Reed, to approve. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

1. Welcome

Chair Glass welcomed all present to the meeting.

2. Tunnel Top Park Updates

Mr. Carden recalled that the Tunnel Top Park project received a \$5 million donation from a private estate, which has selected former Board member Bonnie Barnett to serve as their art advisor. On behalf of this estate, Ms. Barnett will bring projects before the Board for approval and recommendation to the City Commission. The donation was made on the condition that the first two pieces be one sculpture by artist Marc Quinn and one sculpture by R&R Studios. The cost of these two pieces will total slightly over \$1 million.

Mr. Carden continued that the Board has also discussed extending the James Laird Arts Park area toward the Riverwalk once the first two works have been placed. He noted that Tunnel Top Park itself is not a large swath of land. Chair Glass added that the City also wishes to preserve some green space within the park.

Ms. Marks asked if there has been further communication with the estate and Ms. Barnett since the previous meeting. Mr. Carden confirmed that he has worked with both entities, as well as with the City's Department of Transportation and Mobility and the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT). He is currently waiting for the selected artists' studios to provide schematics and renderings of their pieces so FDOT can approve structural aspects of the project. The City's site surveyor and engineering team will also be involved in this process before a general contractor is hired.

A condition report was created for the Quinn piece by the artist's studio as well as Christie's Auction House, and will be filed with the City. Vice Chair Steinkamp requested that the Board members be provided with a copy of the condition report as well.

Ms. Marks recalled that at the previous meeting, the Board had requested that the estate work with them in the future. She asked if this was part of Mr. Carden's discussion with the estate. Mr. Carden replied that there has been no discussion of additional pieces at this time; however, because the artwork will be donated by the donor's estate, it will not be possible for the Board to dictate what the estate may or may not bring forward for approval. If the estate identifies a piece in which they are interested, it will be brought before the Board. He confirmed that he has communicated the importance of allowing the Board to see the artwork ahead of time.

Mr. Martineau noted that as part of their approval of the first two pieces, the Board had indicated that they would like to see multiple pieces brought before them so they may choose which piece(s) to approve. Ms. Marks also asked if the Board would have some say in the selection of locations for the placement of future pieces of donated artwork.

Mr. Carden explained that the donation of the Quinn and R&R Studios pieces has been fully funded and approved by the City Commission, which supersedes the input of any advisory entity. At this point, the City must work with the estate regarding their placement. He emphasized again that there is no guarantee the Board will be able to dictate the selection or placement of artwork in the future, although they will be able to work with and advise the City Commission.

Ms. Marks stated that she wished to ensure there is a clear understanding of how processes would be followed in the future. Mr. Carden reiterated that if the Board were to deny approval to a donation, the donated artwork may still go before the City Commission, and if it is approved by that body, their approval would supersede the Board's decision. He continued that he has asked the estate to provide multiple pieces; however, if they do not do so, the Board will be asked to approve or deny future artwork in a similar manner to the October 31, 2022 meeting.

Mr. Martineau recalled that the first two pieces were brought before the Board with the recommendation to approve them without an option to deny. Mr. Carden reiterated that the condition of the \$5 million estate donation was that the City accept those first two pieces. Had they not accepted the work, the entire \$5 million donation would not have come to the City. He emphasized the uniqueness of the situation regarding the estate's donation, which involves input from the estate and its trustees as well as the City.

Mr. Martineau explained that he wished to better understand the Board's responsibilities and the investment of the members' time. He felt there should be a specific process by which artwork will be brought before the Board. Ms. Marks stated that she shared these concerns, and would like the process to be clarified before the next piece of artwork proposed by the estate is brought forward so the members are not caught unaware again. Chair Glass suggested that now that the Board is holding regular meetings, it may be easier to stay on top of pending issues or approvals.

Mr. Carden advised once more that while the estate has indicated they wish to establish an approval process, he cannot control what they may wish to do in the future. He stated again that once a piece of artwork has been approved by the City Commission, this would be the end of the process.

Vice Chair Steinkamp recalled that during the Board's discussion at the October 31, 2022 meeting, it had been pointed out that accepting donations from the estate is likely to lead to further opportunities for public art. She felt the estate and its art director would be more sensitive to the Board's suggestions in the future.

Mr. Reed added that channels of communication will now be open between the Board, the City, and the estate, noting that the Board will now have the opportunity to initiate communication as well. He proposed inviting a representative of the estate to attend a future Board meeting.

Mr. Carden pointed out that further discussion with the estate may be very far in the future, as it is likely to take one to two years to secure the pieces already approved for Tunnel Top Park. No additional activity is expected until both of these pieces are installed, and the park itself has not yet been completed. The Board will need to see the completion of the park before they can accurately determine what is best for it.

It was decided by consensus to proceed with inviting a representative of the estate, such as its art director, to attend a future Board meeting and share information on the estate's vision going forward.

3. Lifeguard Stand Call to Artists

Mr. Carden reported that he had slightly revised the call to artists for four new lifeguard stands on the Fort Lauderdale Beach. He recalled that City Commissioner Steven Glassman had requested that the 12th Street lifeguard stand have an LGBTQ+ theme or quality.

Vice Chair Steinkamp suggested that the call to artists be extended to additional entities, such as LGBTQ+ civic groups or the Unitarian Church. This would ensure that the LGBTQ+ community has broader access to the call to artists. Ms. Marks agreed that the City should make sure to reach out to specific groups, but did not feel a particular location's lifeguard stand should be designated to reflect a theme as long as all are invited to participate.

Mr. Carden advised that every call to artists is open to the public. He further clarified that the Commissioner's request was that the lifeguard stand reflect an LGBTQ+ theme, with the manner of this reflection left up to the artists. Chair Glass stated that she was supportive of the use of public art to honor members of the LGBTQ+ community.

Ms. Marks observed that there are several arts organizations in Broward County and Fort Lauderdale which should be made aware of the call to artists. She asked how it could be ensured that these organizations are aware of the call to artists. Mr. Carden confirmed that the Board members can reach out to various organizations in addition to the call for artists and ensure that they are aware of the opportunity.

Mr. Carden concluded that the call to artists is currently being drafted. He has considered the CODAworx, Café, and Submittable platforms, and anticipated that the call would use CODAworx, which appears to be the most cost-effective option, with additional posting on Café. The cost of using Submittable is roughly \$10,000 per year, and the City currently does not have the budget for this platform. It was also suggested that the call be sent to Juried Art Services, which is based on Palm Beach.

Mr. Reed requested an estimate of the number of responses the City may expect through CODAworx. Mr. Carden recalled that this platform has a database of roughly 60,000 artists. The City would receive a discount for using this platform, as they are a

governmental organization. There is an additional discount for new contractors with the service. Two dedicated e-blasts would be sent out for the call, which would also be featured on the CODAworx website.

4. Mills Pond Park Mural Proposal

Mr. Carden stated that the City's Parks and Recreation Department has been working with artist Djerlens Chery to create a mural on the sports court at Mills Pond Park. The budget for this work is \$8100, which would come from the Parks and Recreation Department's budget. The Department directly selected Mr. Chery and his proposed design, and would like the Board to recommend approval to the City Commission.

The Board discussed the proposed mural with Mr. Chery, with Vice Chair Steinkamp asking if he will be responsible for its maintenance. Mr. Chery confirmed this, adding that he will use a sealant to maintain and protect the work, which will be created using acrylic paint.

Motion made by Mr. Reed, seconded by Vice Chair Steinkamp, to approve. [The **motion** passed by consent.]

5. Peter Toth Statue #44 Relocation

Mr. Carden explained that D.C. Alexander Park is preparing to undergo major renovations and will be closed for up to two years. Peter Toth's *Statue #44*, which is part of his Whispering Giants series, has been located in Fort Lauderdale since the early 1990s. It will need to be relocated due to the planned renovation. Three possible options for relocation include Major William F. Lauderdale Park, Snyder Park, and George English Park. The Parks and Recreation Department will assume the costs and labor necessary to move the statue.

Vice Chair Steinkamp requested additional information on the renovations planned for D.C. Alexander Park. Mr. Carden replied that he did not have specific information on what will be done to the park. It has not been determined whether the relocation will be temporary or permanent; however, the City does not want to place the statue in storage.

The Board members discussed the three options for relocation, noting that Major William F. Lauderdale Park is in the Sailboat Bend community, which was once home to a significant Colusa Native American population. *Statue #44* is a Native American-themed sculpture. It was noted that development will be coming to Snyder Park, which could affect the statue's placement there.

Motion made by Ms. Marks, seconded by Mr. Reed, that we honor the Parks Department and recommend moving their request to move this Trail of Whispering Giants sculpture/statue from where it is to the Major William Lauderdale Park. [The **motion** passed by consent.]

6. New Business / Board Comments

Chair Glass suggested that a mural could be proposed for the Children's Diagnostic Treatment Center located on Federal Highway. Mr. Martineau noted that the material on the outside of the building could be a difficult surface for a mural, and that this has been considered in the past. Mr. Carden observed that he would be very hesitant to involve the Board in activities not on public land.

Vice Chair Steinkamp stated that she has spoken with representatives of a public art program in San Diego, California. She suggested that she could provide information on this program to the Board members. Mr. Carden advised that he will be visiting San Diego in 2023 on behalf of the City and will explore this further. He noted that there are limitations at the state level on how public art programs can be funded in Florida. The City continues to explore potential options for funding.

Mr. Martineau reported that Fort Lauderdale Art and Design Week will be held in January 2023. This event highlights and promotes the arts, artists, and institutions across Broward County. Additional information, including a schedule of events, is available at FTLADW.com.

7. Communications to the Commission

None.

8. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Any written public comments made 48 hours prior to the meeting regarding items discussed during the proceedings have been attached hereto.

[Minutes prepared by K. McGuire, Prototype, Inc.]