



**MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
PUBLIC ART & PLACEMAKING ADVISORY BOARD
TOWER 101, SUITE 1100**

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE 101 NE 3RD AVENUE, FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301
AUGUST 19, 2024 – 1:00 P.M.**

| MEMBERS | | January-December 2024 | |
|------------------------------|---|------------------------------|---------------|
| | | PRESENT | ABSENT |
| Sarah Glass, Chair | P | 4 | 0 |
| Martha Steinkamp, Vice Chair | A | 3 | 1 |
| Phoenix Marks | P | 4 | 0 |
| Robyn Vegas | P | 4 | 1 |
| Elisabeth Wennberg | P | 3 | 0 |

As of this date, there are 5 appointed members to the Board, which means 3 would constitute a quorum.

Staff Present

Joshua Carden, Cultural Affairs Officer, Staff Liaison
K. Cruitt, Recording Clerk, Prototype, Inc.

Communication to the City Commission

None.

Roll Call

Chair Glass called the meeting to order at 1:11 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was present.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Approval of Minutes – 5/20/24

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

- 1. Welcome**
- 2. Business for the Arts of Broward Donation at Riverwalk Garage**

Ms. Vegas stated that Business for the Arts of Broward has donated funds toward a Riverwalk Garage mural project, and over 180 artists from throughout Florida have applied. Work on the mural is expected to begin when approved by the City Commission.

Motion made by Ms. Marks, seconded by Ms. Wennberg, to accept the donation of the Christian Stanley mural from Business for the Arts of Broward. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed 3-0. (Ms. Vegas abstained. A memorandum of voting conflict is attached to these minutes.)

3. Relocation of Carlos Luna's *Horse* to Las Olas Oceanside Park

Mr. Carden explained that Carlos Luna's statue, *Horse*, was fabricated at a much larger size than anticipated. The work was originally intended for placement at Tunnel Top Park but is now being considered for Las Olas Oceanside Park instead due to its size. Mr. Carden noted that another potential location for the statue is Esplanade Park near the Broward Center for the Performing Arts.

The Board members discussed prospective locations for the statue, which was donated to the City by the Laird Trust. There were concerns that the *Horse* statue is not thematically consistent with other artwork in the Las Olas Oceanside Park area.

Motion made by Ms. Marks, seconded by Ms. Vegas, to relocate the Carlos Luna *Horse* sculpture to Esplanade Park. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

4. Project Updates:

- **Pepe Gaka Mural at Peter Feldman Park**

Mr. Carden shared the artist's initial concept for the mural at Peter Feldman Park, which includes native flora and fauna among graphic elements. Three neighbors from the area have provided feedback thus far. Utility boxes in the area will also be wrapped in a design that will blend with the mural. The Board members provided general approval for the project.

- **Ernesto Maranje Mural at Holiday Park**

Mr. Carden recalled that the Board had previously approved artist Ernesto Maranje's mural design proposed for Holiday Park. The City's Parks and Recreation Department has requested that work on this mural be postponed until October 2024 so it can be funded in fiscal year (FY) 2024-2025.

- **Timothy Smith Lifeguard Towers**

Mr. Carden advised that this project will not begin until the conclusion of turtle nesting season, which is anticipated in October 2024. He has presented the project to the City's

Beach Business Improvement District Advisory Committee (BID), which includes hotels and other businesses in the A1A area. Two of the hotels have offered to host the artist.

- **Manolo Valdes sculpture at Huizenga Park**

Mr. Carden stated that he has viewed this sculpture in an art storage facility. He is working with the Downtown Development Authority (DDA) to have their contractor prepare the slab for the sculpture so it can be installed when major construction is complete. He will also request that the DDA's contractor allow the City to pull a sub-permit for the installation under their master permit.

- **Dean Davis Mural at Fire Station #49**

Mr. Carden recalled that the Board and the City Commission have previously approved this mural. The Chiefs of the City's Police and Fire Departments recommended minor changes to details of the design to accurately represent insignia. The work is scheduled to proceed once all permits have been acquired.

5. New Business / Board Comments

Ms. Marks addressed the \$5 million donation from the Laird Trust to the City, expressing concern that the three works donated thus far do not seem to be iconic in a way that would attract visitors to Fort Lauderdale, as proposed by the Mayor when the Board was created. She suggested it may have been better to invest the entire amount in one large iconic work that would serve as a landmark for the City, and concluded that the Board should carefully consider the next investment made by the Laird Trust.

Chair Glass requested clarification of what type of work Ms. Marks might consider to be iconic. Ms. Marks replied that the Mayor's charge was to select artwork that would bring people to Fort Lauderdale to see it. She did not believe that any of the works selected have met this goal.

Ms. Marks asked how much remains in the Laird Trust for public art. Mr. Carden estimated that \$2.2 million remains.

Motion made by Ms. Marks that we direct the person who is making the selection that we request to not have one or two piecemeal pieces [but] one additional piece that uses up all that money that's left, and that we identify the best place for it that we think makes an iconic statement in Fort Lauderdale. [The **motion** died for lack of second.]

The Board discussed its beginnings and early membership, with Ms. Marks expressing concern the Board has been asked to act as "a welcome mat" for the artwork, which she did not believe was the Board's intended role. Ms. Vegas suggested that this individual be invited to attend a Board meeting to discuss the Board's role.

Mr. Carden asked for clarification of the type of work Ms. Marks felt would be iconic. Ms. Marks replied that she did not have a specific answer for this. Ms. Vegas noted that there could be more open communication between the Laird Trust and the Board on how to use the remaining \$2.2 million.

Mr. Carden advised that the Mayor is happy with the pieces that have been selected thus far. He also observed that some iconic artworks in other cities, such as Chicago's Bean sculpture, had an initial cost of \$40 million and currently costs nearly \$1 million each year for maintenance. The Board discussed works of art purchased by or donated to other cities as well as the costs of their maintenance.

Mr. Carden explained that funds in the Laird Trust are held in a trust account and may be spent only by its trustees. The City does not physically control these dollars. In the past, the Laird Trust has brought pieces before the Board and requested that the Board recommend those works to the City Commission. Once the Commission approved the pieces, the Trust purchased them.

Ms. Vegas stated that the selection process for artwork has changed from how the Board members originally understood it. Mr. Carden recalled that one of the tenets of the City's agreement with the Laird Trust has been that the Board would work with the Trust's advisor. He also pointed out that of the approximately \$2.2 million remaining in the Trust, \$500,000 is intended to be reserved for maintenance of donated works. He concluded that the Laird Trust's advisor would be invited to a future Board meeting for additional discussion.

Mr. Carden addressed the Board's membership, explaining that former members Andrew Martineau and Gregory Reed have resigned from the Board. Mr. Reed had been appointed by the chair of Broward County's public art board, which means a new member will be appointed in his stead. Mr. Martineau had represented City Commission District 2 and a new member from that district will be appointed by Vice Mayor Steven Glassman. Applications for membership are available on the City's website.

Mr. Carden reported that the unveiling of Marc Quinn's *Broken Sublime* will be rescheduled for October or November 2024.

Chair Glass requested an update on ongoing development in the Sailboat Bend area. Mr. Carden replied that the City is exploring the possibility of purchasing a site in Sailboat Bend for use as artists' studio space. The City is going through the appraisal processes required by State Statutes, as the building currently on the site was designated as a historic structure.

It was noted that the next meeting date would be September 16, 2024.

6. Communications to the City Commission

None.

7. Adjournment

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 2:11 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.]