



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

**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE 101 NE 3<sup>RD</sup> AVENUE, FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301  
OCTOBER 21, 2024 – 1:00 P.M.**

<u>MEMBERS</u>	<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>January-December 2024</u>	
		<u>ABSENT</u>	
Sarah Glass, Chair	A	5	1
Martha Steinkamp, Vice Chair	P	5	1
Phoenix Marks	P	6	0
Erica Mohan	P	1	0
Elisabeth Wennberg	A	4	1

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**

Vice Chair Steinkamp called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. Roll was called and it was noted a quorum was present.

**Pledge of Allegiance**

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**Approval of Minutes – 9/16/2024**

**Motion** made by Ms. Marks, seconded by Ms. Mohan, to accept the minutes. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

**1. Welcome & Introductions**

Mr. Carden introduced new Board member Erica Mohan at this time.

**2. Board Code of Conduct Ordinance**

Mr. Carden explained that the City Commission recently passed a Board Code of Conduct Ordinance which outlines conduct requirements during City advisory body meetings. He requested that the members sign the Code of Conduct and return it to him or directly to the City Clerk's Office prior to the next meeting.

### **3. Unity Beacon Discussion**

Mr. Carden advised that the Unity Beacon sculpture was erected in 2018 and is now in need of improvement. The piece, its base, and its frame are no longer in a condition which is conducive to a public art project. He concluded that it is not possible to salvage the work.

Mr. Carden has addressed the Central City Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), the Community Foundation, and the Central City Alliance regarding the sculpture's condition. Conservation would require the work to be rebuilt. Another option would be commissioning a new piece. Mr. Carden stated that he was granted \$150,000 from the CRA to fund the replacement. The request will go before the City Commission, in their capacity as the CRA's Board of Directors, for final approval in the next few weeks. He estimated it will be 21 to 24 months before installation of a new work.

Mr. Carden continued that deaccession of the current piece would allow the original artists to remove it at their expense if that is their wish. Otherwise it would be removed by the City in a non-archival manner, as its current state may become a public safety hazard.

Mr. Carden stated that he will oversee the call to artists for the new commission, with input from the Board on the selection of a final design. The design will then go before the Central City CRA and the City Commission for further approval.

**Motion** made by Ms. Marks, seconded by Ms. Mohan, to deaccession this piece and move forward with the commissioning of a new sculpture for the Central City Alliance roundabout. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

### **4. Selene Project Introduction**

Mr. Carden stated that Selene Towers is a new condominium development located on A1A. As part of their development agreement with the City, the condominium has agreed to provide a work of public art in what is currently a median area. This area will be part of a construction project and would be closed to the public for some time.

Mr. Carden continued that he has not received all the information related to this project, but shared the information he has received with the Board members. The work would be commissioned and installed at the sole expense of the developer. The selected artist is Luis Kaiulani. The work is intended to raise awareness of the need for environmental

preservation through art. The installation would consist of seven green sea turtles sculpted from aluminum and would be placed in a pedestrian walkway.

Vice Chair Steinkamp asked if maintenance has been considered as part of the project's cost. Mr. Carden noted that the project will be constructed of welded and painted aluminum sheets. The development agreement requires that the work be maintained. He noted that the Board has the option of also including language about maintenance in any motion they may wish to make today.

**Motion** made by Ms. Mohan, seconded by Ms. Marks, to approve on the condition that they include maintenance. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

### **5. Middle River Terrace Mural Replacement**

Mr. Carden stated that artist Moshe Yehoshoua had previously created a mural in Middle River Terrace Park. The mural was painted on wood which was later removed due to the deterioration of some of its panels. The Middle River Terrace Neighborhood Association requested funds from the City in fiscal year (FY) 2025 to replace the mural and were granted \$5000. They would like the same artist to provide the new mural.

Colleen Lockwood, representing the Middle River Terrace Neighborhood Association, advised that the deterioration of the wood was through no fault of the artist. Mr. Carden noted that the wood provided for the new mural will be a longer-lasting and appropriately treated material; however, he noted that a mural painted on wood will have an estimated lifespan of roughly seven years.

Vice Chair Steinkamp asked where the City's \$5000 allocation would come from, pointing out that the Public Art Ordinance has not yet received any funding. Mr. Carden explained that the money would come from the City's Parks and Recreation Department. He showed photos of the original mural as well as a rendering of the proposed replacement.

Vice Chair Steinkamp asked if the Middle River Terrace Neighborhood Association has solicited community input on the work. It was clarified that Troy Liggett, president of that Association, plans to share the design with the public at an upcoming meeting of the Association membership.

**Motion** made by Ms. Mohan, seconded by Ms. Marks, to approve the commissioning of Moshe for the Middle River Terrace Park mural project, contingent upon community input. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Mr. Carden requested that the Middle River Terrace Neighborhood Association representatives reach out to his office following their membership meeting.

### **6. Christian Stanley Maintenance and Inventory Sheet**

Mr. Carden recalled that Business for the Arts of Broward had brought forward a proposed work to be placed at the Riverwalk Parking Garage. Christian Stanley was commissioned for this work, which was approved by the City Commission. The process has begun to move forward and documentation has been provided to Mr. Carden's office.

Mr. Carden continued that the new City Attorney assigned to the Public Art Program has reviewed the Board's September 2024 meeting at which this project was approved. The Attorney indicated that there was not sufficient conversation at that meeting regarding the maintenance of the mural. He had raised this issue at today's meeting in order to ensure that this discussion is part of the public record. He advised that he did not anticipate the work to require significant maintenance, as it will be created with spray paint and sealed with a guarding material. The work may be washed using soap and water. The City will be responsible for the mural's maintenance and may remove the piece or return it to the artist when it is determined to have reached the end of its lifespan.

### **7. Hopscotch – Hardy Park**

Fort Lauderdale's Parks and Recreation Department has recommended the painting of a hopscotch grid in Hardy Park with an accompanying minor design. The budget for this is \$1000, which will be provided to the artist as an honorarium. Riverwalk has selected the artist and will fund the project.

Vice Chair Steinkamp asked if the design would be part of a larger cohesive project at Hardy Park in relationship to other works. Mr. Carden explained that the hopscotch grid will be a temporary project in front of the children's playground.

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

### **8. New Business / Board Comments**

Mr. Carden noted that the next Board meeting will be held on November 18, 2024.

Vice Chair Steinkamp addressed the \$5 million donation from the Laird Estate, recalling that the Board had originally wished to have authority to approve the donated works was to encourage other gifts of a similar nature; however, she pointed out that there has been ongoing discussion of the Board's role with respect to the donation.

Vice Chair Steinkamp asked if the City's Public Art Ordinance would need to be amended, or if another Ordinance might be needed, to clarify the approval process for public art. She also asked if, in the instance of a sizable gift for which the donor has already selected pieces, the Board might provide guidelines before those pieces are brought forth for approval. She felt this would create more confidence in the approval process, and asked if it might be incorporated into either the existing or a new Ordinance.

Mr. Carden stated that he plans to meet with the City's Office of Finance and Budget, as well as the City Manager, the City Attorney's Office, and the Director of the Development Services Department, to discuss amending the Public Art Ordinance to include the guidelines and policies adopted by the Board roughly two years ago. He will meet again with the City Attorney's Office in November 2024 to further discuss funding for public art.

Vice Chair Steinkamp emphasized the importance of establishing guidelines which prospective donors or their representatives must follow before bringing work before the Board for approval. She pointed out that there are no guidelines which currently seem to apply to the Laird Estate or its representatives with regard to donated artwork.

Mr. Carden advised that the guidelines include a donation policy and procedures. Vice Chair Steinkamp asserted that there are no specific guidelines regarding what can be approved as a gift. These guidelines could include artists' requirements, location requirements, and neighborhood compatibility, among other considerations. Mr. Carden explained that every experience of proposing artwork will be different.

Mr. Carden also noted the example of a work proposed for installation at the Swimming Hall of Fame, recalling that when he had reviewed the guidelines for the public art approval process, the donor had declined to bring forward the work.

Vice Chair Steinkamp also expressed concern with administrative issues, such as how much funding remains in the Laird Estate's gift. She felt this should be regularly reviewed when the Estate's representatives bring forward another proposed piece for donation. Mr. Carden advised, however, that the Estate does not wish to share this information, as it involves private funds.

Ms. Marks pointed out that the donation of public art by the Laird Estate should not be the Board's concern. She recalled that at the Board's first meeting, the Mayor of Fort Lauderdale had addressed the members and informed them of the Laird Estate's gift, as well as his desire for Fort Lauderdale to secure an "iconic" work of art that would attract tourists. The Board had presumed that the Laird Estate's representative was acting under similar direction; however, the representative had indicated that the instructions given to her by the Estate were not the same as the direction provided to the Board by the Mayor.

Ms. Marks continued that this lack of consistency had contributed to friction between the Board and the Laird Estate's representative, and recommended that the Board take a step back. She concluded that the Board should indicate that they are grateful for the Estate's gift.

Vice Chair Steinkamp asserted that her concerns included both funding and transparency with respect to the Laird Estate's donation. Ms. Marks advised that the representative will likely provide this information when the next piece selected by the Estate comes before the Board. Mr. Carden agreed that there may be only limited funds left.

Vice Chair Steinkamp stated that in addition to more detail regarding the remaining funding, she would also like there to be further discussion of guidelines for donated artwork with the City Attorney's Office. She reiterated the need to take neighborhood compatibility into consideration when making decisions on donated artwork and its location.

Mr. Carden reviewed the artwork selection criteria listed in the current Ordinance, which include maintenance, appropriateness, background information on the artist, inventory sheets, installation information, a budget breakdown, and others. Vice Chair Steinkamp pointed out that these criteria were not applied to the works donated by the Laird Estate.

Ms. Marks stated that while the City was pleased to receive a \$5 million donation for public art from the Laird Estate, she had not seen a significant amount of public relations discussion of the gift. She asked if the Estate has indicated whether or not they would like greater publicity. Mr. Carden replied that the Estate has suggested there be more publicity of this nature. Ms. Marks commented that greater publicity of the Laird Estate's gift could encourage more entities to give similar legacy gifts.

Mr. Carden explained that the City has a new Public Relations Manager who recently accepted that position, and he would reach out to her regarding public relations opportunities.

#### **9. Communications to the Commission**

None.

#### **10. Adjournment**

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 2:04 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.]