



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
PUBLIC ART & PLACEMAKING ADVISORY BOARD
TOWER 101, SUITE 1100
101 NE 3RD AVENUE, FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33301
APRIL 21, 2025 – 1:00 P.M.**

| <u>MEMBERS</u> | | January-December 2025 | |
|---------------------------|---|------------------------------|---------------|
| | | PRESENT | ABSENT |
| Martha Steinkamp, Chair | P | 3 | 0 |
| Phoenix Marks, Vice Chair | P | 3 | 0 |
| Lori Franke | P | 3 | 0 |
| Edison Lozada | A | 1 | 2 |
| Erica Mohan | A | 2 | 1 |
| Jodi Tanner | P | 3 | 0 |
| Elisabeth Wennberg | P | 3 | 0 |

As of this date, there are 7 appointed members to the Board, which means 4 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 Steinkamp called the meeting to order at 1:04 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 – 2/24/2025

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

- 1. Welcome & Introductions**
- 2. 13th Street Roundabout Community Survey Results**

Mr. Carden reported that 88 responses were received to the survey, which closed on April 16, 2025. Responses were divided on some of its questions, including themes and stylistic choices. The greatest desire was for the proposed work to stand out in the area. Lighting will be incorporated into the project. Funding will come from the Northwest Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA), and local entity H.O.M.E.S., Inc. will be kept apprised of the project's progress, including the artist selection process.

3. 13th Street Roundabout Call to Artist

Mr. Carden advised that he used the survey responses as a guideline for the call to artists. The posted budget will be \$140,000, which will leave \$10,000 to cover the removal of the existing work as well as a \$1000 honorarium to each of the top three artists. The budget will be inclusive of design and fabrication fees, engineering, and permitting. The artist will need to guarantee the integrity of the work for two years, after which the City will maintain it. The call to artists will be posted in the next week and applications will be closed in late June.

Mr. Carden added that the City's Parks and Recreation Department will maintain the roundabout with landscaping after the existing work is removed and until the new work is installed.

4. Little Lincoln Park Call to Artist

Mr. Carden continued that the CRA is also funding this project. He has spoken with Commissioner Dr. Pamela Beasley-Pittman, whose Commission district includes Little Lincoln Park, about options for the space. The Commissioner indicated that her intent for the project was to celebrate unsung heroes of the area by including their names in the park. Discussions of how this could be achieved are ongoing. The budget for this project is \$35,000.

The Board members expressed concern with how local schools would be involved in the project, as the current school year is coming to an end. Mr. Carden noted that a more equitable option could be the City's summer camp program. He will reach out to the City's Education Officer for further discussion.

Chair Steinkamp expressed concern that summer camp involvement would not include guidance from teachers. Mr. Carden advised that he would be in further contact with Commissioner Dr. Beasley-Pittman regarding the project and would share her responses with the Board.

5. Lifeguard Towers – Timothy Smith Updates

Mr. Carden reported that a purchase order is now open for this project and the artist has received his first two checks. Travel and hotel plans will be finalized over the next two

months. He recalled that he has spoken to members of the Beach Business Improvement District (BID) with regard to supplying hotel space for the artist, who will provide live painting demonstrations and artist talks at these properties in return. The deadline for completion is October 2025.

6. Muta Vision Mural Completion

Mr. Carden explained that this is the Broward Boulevard mural project, which involves Broward County and the Broward Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) as well as the City. The artist is providing final touches. He encouraged the Board members to view the site.

7. Sankofa Bird Conservation

Mr. Carden stated that the City received a call from a member of Women Trailblazers, which hoped to raise funds for conservation of an existing Sankofa bird sculpture. The Sankofa bird is a Ghanaian symbol which is depicted as looking backward while moving forward. Because the cost was minimal, the artist has already taken steps toward the conservation of the work, funded by the City's Parks and Recreation Department. All parties involved were pleased with the results.

8. New Business / Board Comments

Vice Chair Marks requested an update on the Board's request to have the new City Attorney attend an upcoming Board meeting. Mr. Carden advised that he will give a presentation at the City Commission Conference Agenda meeting on May 20, 2025, which will outline potential options for revisions to the current Public Art Ordinance. He is working with the City Attorney's Office as well as the City's Building Officials and Budget Office to identify opportunities for the best way forward. The presentation will provide the Commission with the chance to give clear direction on how they would like the Ordinance to be structured.

Ms. Tanner requested that copies of the most recent Public Art Ordinance be sent to the Board members in advance of the May 20 Conference Agenda meeting. Mr. Carden confirmed this would be done. He showed portions of the draft presentation as well, adding that the backup materials for his presentation will include information on other Florida municipalities' public art programs.

Ms. Tanner requested clarification of potential barriers to public art funding. Mr. Carden replied that this is primarily the Budget Department, which takes a different view of how the Public Art Ordinance should be used. He also recalled that a bill currently proposed by the Florida Legislature could prohibit municipalities from requiring developers to contribute toward public art.

9. Communications to City Commission

None.

Chair Steinkamp stated that she felt it is an ongoing concern for public art to be installed throughout the City without the Board's involvement in approving it. She pointed out that City Commissioner Steven Glassman's newsletter recently included notice of the unveiling of a mural, as well as the issuance of a call to artists in relation to the upcoming Riverwalk festival. Neither of these items included Board participation.

Chair Steinkamp expressed concern with the Board's function if other parties are proceeding with plans and approvals of public art. She strongly emphasized the need for the Board's role in this process.

It was clarified that both items referred to in the Commissioner's newsletter were not public art projects, but involved specific needs for private entities. Chair Steinkamp asserted that the Board is being bypassed and does not have input on the public art process. She felt when public announcements are made, such as the items mentioned in the newsletter, the Board should have been made aware of them.

Chair Steinkamp continued that she felt the public should be aware that the Board exists as a resource to help the community, including assistance with the selection processes for artwork. Mr. Carden pointed out that he has assisted other parties with calls to artists, but private developers and other private entities are not required to come before the Board.

Chair Steinkamp stated that ideally, having Board involvement would confer additional significance on a project, and reiterated her concern that the Board may not be seen as relevant. She felt this may be part of the reason why the City has not more actively pursued public funding for public art.

Vice Chair Marks pointed out again that the two examples cited from the Commissioner's newsletter do not fall within the Board's purview. Mr. Carden added that there is nothing the Board can formally offer to private entities, as private businesses cannot be promoted by the City.

Chair Steinkamp concluded that she had wished to call attention to this issue, and that if the Public Art Ordinance is revised, the revision may more clearly identify the processes involved in approving public art. Mr. Carden noted that his presentation to the Commission in May will include a proposed budget, including a recommendation for funds for marketing and public relations.

Chair Steinkamp recalled that the Mayor has indicated an interest in establishing Fort Lauderdale as an international city, and pointed out that a commitment to public art can raise a city's international profile. Ms. Wennberg observed that one of the works approved by the Board, Marc Quinn's *Broken Sublime*, comes from an internationally renowned

artist but has not been widely publicized by Fort Lauderdale. Mr. Carden clarified that the City's website includes a page dedicated to its public artworks.

Chair Steinkamp continued that she had spoken with a representative of the Laird Trust with respect to publicizing the acquisition of the Marc Quinn statue. The representative had indicated that the Laird Estate wished to publicize the work themselves. Chair Steinkamp suggested there may be ways to collaborate with the estate and other private entities in the future with regard to publicity.

The Board members discussed the City's social media presence with respect to public art and other cultural events. Mr. Carden stated that the City's social media team is provided with information on events at cultural institutions. The Board members suggested potential marketing strategies, including the following:

- A significant social media presence focusing on public arts
- Dedicated social media channels
- Use of hashtags
- Events for developers
- Dedicated marketing dollars for cultural affairs
- A social aspect for the arts

It was asked if the Board could schedule a separate meeting or meetings specifically dedicated to marketing and public relations. Mr. Carden advised that these are outside the purview of the Board.

Chair Steinkamp suggested that the Board members attend a future City Commission meeting once the Public Art Ordinance has been updated in order to express their interest in helping Fort Lauderdale raise its profile as an international city. Ms. Tanner observed that this could include the Board acting to promote other entities' events related to public art.

10. Adjournment

The next meeting was scheduled for May 19, 2025.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 2:13 p.m.

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