



**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
OCTOBER 20, 2025 – 1:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS		January-December 2025	
		PRESENT	ABSENT
Martha Steinkamp, Chair	P	7	0
Phoenix Marks, Vice Chair	P	7	0
Erica Mohan	P	4	3
Jodi Tanner	P	6	1
Elisabeth Wennberg	A	6	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
 Porshia Garcia, Community Services Department Director
 Katrina Johnson, Acting Assistant Community Services Department Director
 K. Cruitt, Recording Clerk, Prototype, Inc.

Communication to the City Commission

None.

Roll Call

Chair Steinkamp called the meeting to order at 1:06 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 – 8/18/2025

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

1. Welcome & Introductions – Brief Background on each Board Member

The Board and City Staff members present introduced themselves at this time.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. 13th Street Roundabout Artist Selection at the November 17, 2025 meeting

Mr. Carden explained that the selection process for artwork to be placed at the 13th Street Roundabout will be restarted. He will inform the Middle River Terrace Neighborhood Association of this process in advance of the November 17, 2025 meeting, and that meeting will include public comment. Members of the Association have seen all the artists' applications and will have the opportunity to comment on them. The Board will be asked if they would like to see additional submissions or further discuss any of the artists. The intent is to ensure full transparency of the process.

Mr. Carden concluded that the Board members will be asked to vote on the artists' submissions after they have been reviewed. If artists are present, they will also have the opportunity to speak.

Community Services Department Director Porshia Garcia requested that the November 17 meeting also include a brief review of the selection process. She added that the Board will be able to respond to comments made by the public if they wish; those comments will be made part of the public record for the meeting.

Vice Chair Marks asked if this new process would be a one-time change from the Board's previous process, or if it is recommended that this process be adopted going forward. She added that the process should allow remote attendance by artists who submitted applications but were unable to attend the meeting in person.

Chair Steinkamp provided the Board members with copies of a document from Americans for the Arts, which is a nationwide program used by U.S. municipalities. She stated that she did not agree with the proposed "re-review" process proposed for the November 17 meeting. She asserted that the Board had followed its process properly in the past, and that re-opening the process could establish an unwanted precedent.

Ms. Garcia advised that she had spoken with the Interim City Attorney regarding this issue. She explained that one aspect of the previous selection process that should have occurred differently related to how the City received the Board's short list selections. The narrowing down of all submissions to a short list should have occurred within the setting of a Board meeting rather than via email. The re-selection process will ensure greater transparency of the process of establishing a short list.

Chair Steinkamp stated that there was opportunity for community input on the process, as a survey had been provided to members of the Middle River Terrace Neighborhood Association, among other communications. She reiterated that she did not wish to

establish a precedent which suggested that the Board's previous activity was not correct. She concluded that she would reach out to the Interim City Attorney, as she did not agree with the process proposed for the November 17 meeting and would remove herself from deliberations at that meeting.

Vice Chair Marks observed that there may have been a miscommunication regarding the process used by the Board, emphasizing that there was no communication among members by email. The process had involved each Board member individually selecting their top three submissions and communicating those to Mr. Carden's office only.

Ms. Garcia clarified that there was no suggestion the Board had communicated improperly; however, the City may not ask the Board members to communicate their individual selections via email. The Board members may only determine this short list during a Board meeting.

Chair Steinkamp stated again that the document she had provided reviews the process endorsed by Americans for the Arts, and added that she would provide it to the Interim City Attorney, who may not be fully informed about the process.

Chair Steinkamp continued that the members of the public who had attended previous Board meetings and expressed their concerns with the process had done so in an aggressive and inappropriate manner by suggesting that the Board's process was not transparent. She asserted that if members of the public make similar accusations in the future, they should provide evidence of their claims.

Ms. Tanner requested clarification of how the review process would proceed at the November 17 meeting. Mr. Carden explained that he would re-send the artists' submissions to the Board members, who would then communicate their recommendations for the short list during the November 17 meeting.

Chair Steinkamp reiterated that the process previously used by the Board was followed appropriately and has been used many times in the past since the Board's inception. She stated again that she would provide the City Attorney's Office with documentation so the Interim City Attorney can be further educated on this process.

Vice Chair Marks recalled that the main reason there had been a discrepancy between the Board's process and the community's understanding of it was that one of the applications had been incomplete and was not submitted on time. She asserted that the Board's process had followed the rules regarding submissions and the community had not wished to accept those rules.

Chair Steinkamp advised that she would also follow up on this issue with the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs, reiterating her concern that reopening the Board's process would establish an unwanted precedent.

Ms. Garcia explained once again that her discussion with the City Attorney's Office had focused on adherence to the Sunshine Law and whether or not the City had followed that law accordingly. She again clarified that this discussion had not addressed the selection of artists; instead, it had addressed the fact that the City may not poll or solicit a short list of artists from the Board members via email.

Vice Chair Marks stated that the Interim City Attorney should be made aware that the reopening of the process in response to concerns from the community demonstrated "standing up for wrong action," which she felt was unacceptable.

Ms. Garcia explained once more that if the City had not solicited the Board members' short list selections via email, the process would not be revisited.

Troy Liggett, president of the Middle River Terrace Neighborhood Association, asked if the plans for the November 17 meeting would allow the public an opportunity for input before determining the short list. Ms. Garcia replied that she had not discussed this with the Interim City Attorney, but would follow up on it. She added that she has seen advisory entities allow public comment either before or after making their decision, and would reach out to the City Clerk's Office for clarification of whether there is a right or wrong method for public comment.

Ms. Tanner observed that the community was allowed an opportunity for public comment through the survey which was provided to them.

Mr. Liggett stated that the Board's characterization of previous meetings was not accurate. He asserted that the neighborhood's concern came from the fact that several artists submitted applications, but the community was not permitted to view all of the applications and provide informed feedback on them before the Board members voted on the short list.

Mr. Liggett continued that when a vote is to be held at a public meeting, it is the community's expectation that the advisory body will listen to their input before taking a vote on an issue. He thanked the City for reopening the process at the November 17 meeting.

Mr. Carden concluded that Board meetings are regularly scheduled for the third Monday of each month. Notice is posted on the City's calendar as well as the Board's page of the City website, and the public is always welcome to attend.

4. Riverwalk Garage Mural Donation – Smart Growth Partners

Mr. Carden explained that Smart Growth Partners has approached Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale to propose a partnership to donate a new mural for the Riverwalk Garage. The partners selected a work by artist DJ Cherry, who has provided them with a proposal. He provided a visual of the proposed design for the interior walls of the Riverwalk Garage.

Mr. Carden continued that he has spoken with the artist, members of Riverwalk Fort Lauderdale, and members of the City's Transportation and Mobility Department, who provided different perspectives on the proposal. The content and/or placement of the mural will not interfere with the use of parking spots.

Vice Chair Marks suggested modifications to the proposed design. Mr. Carden advised that he would communicate these recommendations to the partners mentioned above and bring a rendering before the Board for final approval at their November 17, 2025 meeting.

5. Little Lincoln Park – *Unsung Heroes*

Mr. Carden recalled that the *Unsung Heroes* project is intended to combine Little Lincoln Park and Lincoln Park, both of which are located on Sistrunk Boulevard. He has spoken with City Commissioner Dr. Pamela Beasley-Pittman, who suggested a list of nine individuals to be honored as part of the project. He provided the Board members with background information on the proposed individuals.

Chair Steinkamp added that she had met with Mr. Carden and Commissioner Dr. Beasley-Pittman to propose collaboration with the Broward County School District's Social Studies Department. She will meet with the director of that Department to further discuss potential student participation the project.

Vice Chair Marks asked if the project overview should specify its location. Mr. Carden explained that this project will not use the Call to Artists process, but will provide design specifications to the City's Procurement Department. The project's sidewalk installation will comply with the requirements of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

Vice Chair Marks also recommended that each honoree recognized by the project be given descriptions of uniform length. Mr. Carden noted that the profiles provided to the Board members were for informational purposes only and would not constitute the final drafts.

6. Southside Cultural Arts Center Temporary Public Art Project

Mr. Carden stated that 21 North, which sponsors the City's annual Avenue of the Arts Festival, has partnered with the Southside Cultural Arts Center and the City's Parks and Recreation Department to propose a temporary public arts display in conjunction with an interior exhibition at the Center. The exhibition, entitled *Cielo Tejido*, features textile art.

Mr. Carden further clarified that the proposed display has been discussed with the City's Urban Forestry Department as well. The display would remain in place for approximately three months. The proposed artwork will not interfere with the trees on which it would be displayed. 21 North will provide liability insurance as part of the agreement with the City.

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

7. Rubric Discussion

Mr. Carden recalled that during discussions of the 13th Street Roundabout installation, there were questions regarding the use of a scoring rubric for public art. He advised that he has served with advisory entities which have and have not used these tools, and suggested that the Board discuss the possibility of using a scoring rubric for decisions on future projects.

Mr. Carden continued that Chair Steinkamp had provided a sample rubric for the Board to review and discuss.

Ms. Mohan stated that she was not in favor of using a numbered system, as she did not feel it would add merit to the process. She suggested that a “yes/no/maybe” system would be more appropriate, as numbering could be erroneously conflated with the quality of work.

Chair Steinkamp explained that the numbered system is intended to correspond to decisions regarding compliance rather than value, and could be more easily understood by parties who are not familiar with the Board’s processes or decisions. Ms. Mohan repeated that her recommendation would be to use Broward County’s “yes/no/maybe” system.

Vice Chair Marks commented that most municipalities use different processes or rubrics; there is no single right way to make scoring decisions. Discussions on this topic were held in 2021 near the time of the Board’s inception. She added that she had reached out to Codaworx for feedback and expects to receive a copy of that organization’s written formula, which is another option that can be used by the Board for decision-making. The Board members discussed other examples of different agencies’ scoring systems.

Mr. Carden concluded that he would provide samples of best practices and rubrics used by various institutions at a subsequent Board meeting for further discussion. He noted that he has not previously worked with an organization which has used a scoring rubric for public art.

8. New Business / Board Comments

Chair Steinkamp recalled that she had attended a City Commission Conference Agenda meeting at which funding for the arts was discussed. Mr. Carden confirmed that the City has set aside funding for public arts projects in fiscal year (FY) 2025-2026, including grants for neighborhoods and businesses that wish to implement public arts. The logistics of this program are still in development.

Chair Steinkamp requested clarification that the arts funding in FY 2025-2026 would only apply to the current fiscal year, to be followed by a 2% funding requirement from projects in the City's Capital Improvement Program (CIP). Mr. Carden explained that there may be a combination of an annual budgeted amount and a percentage from CIP projects for Cultural Affairs initiatives.

Mr. Carden advised that a job listing has been posted for a Public Art Coordinator for Fort Lauderdale. The posting will be open for the next few weeks. He encouraged the Board members to share this information.

Mr. Carden continued that the City Attorney's Office is also working with him to reestablish the Public Arts Ordinance. He recently presented options to the City Commission in relation to this issue. The Board will be able to see and provide feedback on the draft Ordinance before it goes to the City Commission for first reading. The draft Ordinance will also be presented to a subcommittee of the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Associations for additional input.

9. Communications to the Commission

Ms. Tanner recommended that the Board members discuss and send a communication to the City Commission after they have reviewed the draft Public Art Ordinance at a future meeting.

10. Adjournment

Ms. Tanner reported that the recent Las Olas Art Fair was very successful and well-received. Similar events are planned for January and February 2026. She also noted that the annual Christmas on Las Olas event will be held on December 2, 2025.

Vice Chair Marks added that Funding Arts Broward will host an event featuring works from 65 artists at a November 14, 2025 event. Entry is \$20 per person.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:12 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.]