



**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
MARCH 16, 2026 – 1:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS		January-December 2026	
		PRESENT	ABSENT
Phoenix Marks, Chair	P	3	0
Martha Steinkamp, Vice Chair	P	2	1
Jacqueline Garcia-Arteaga	P	3	0
Edison Lozada (1:15-2:45)	P	1	2
Erica Mohan	P	2	1
Jodi Tanner	P	3	0

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, Staff Liaison
 Katrina Johnson, Community Services Department Acting Assistant Director
 Anna Allman, Cultural Affairs Coordinator
 Serena Savellana, Chief of Staff for City Commissioner Ben Sorensen
 Monica Spiteri, Capital Projects Manager
 J. Opperlee, Recording Clerk, Prototype, Inc.

Communication to the City Commission

None.

Roll Call

Chair Marks 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 – 2/23/06

Ms. Garcia-Arteaga noted that while public comments were not made under their own Agenda Item, members of the public did provide comments. It was determined that a

reference to these comments under their specific Agenda Item would be made under the Public Comment item.

Vice Chair Steinkamp advised that she had been unable to attend the March 12, 2026 special Board meeting due to a previously scheduled professional commitment, and wished to ensure that this information was made part of the Board's public record.

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

1. Welcome & Introductions

The Board members introduced themselves.

2. Public Comment

None.

3. City Clerk's Annual Update Form

Mr. Carden explained that he had sent the Board members copies of the annual update form from the City Clerk's Office. He requested that they complete this form and return it.

4. 13th Street Roundabout Artist Interviews and Selection

Chair Marks recalled that the Board held a special meeting on Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 6 p.m. to hear community feedback regarding the 13th Street Roundabout project. Mr. Carden advised that the Board will hear presentations from the artists at today's meeting and their design proposals would be shared visually with the Board members. He noted that both a City-wide survey and a community survey of the Middle River Terrace neighborhood have been conducted in relation to this project. The Board members will be able to ask questions of the artists at today's meeting, after which they will discuss the proposals and make their decision.

Katrina Johnson, Community Services Department Acting Assistant Director, requested that the Board consider holding an additional special meeting regarding the 13th Street Roundabout project. The request was made by the Community Services Department Director in light of the fact that a quorum was not present at the March 12 special meeting, which meant the Board members present had not been able to discuss the presentations.

Chair Marks explained that in advance of the March 12 special meeting, Mr. Carden had received confirmation from the members that a quorum would be present; however, by the time the meeting began, one of the members had reached out to Mr. Carden to advise that they would be late. Mr. Carden had then reached out to the City Attorney's Office, which advised that the Board could hear from the artists and the public. Another member

attended the meeting by Zoom, but could not be counted toward a quorum due to physical absence.

Chair Marks also recalled that some members of the public had expressed disappointment that the Board did not have a quorum present. She emphasized that due to Florida's Sunshine Law, the Board may not discuss Board business in the absence of a quorum.

Chair Marks continued that the 13th Street Roundabout project affects four different communities in Fort Lauderdale, and representatives of more than one neighborhood or neighborhood association were in attendance on March 12 to share feedback.

Ms. Tanner commented that she had felt the March 12 meeting was successful, as several members of the community had attended and provided comments on the proposed artworks. She noted that other members of the public have attended recent Board meetings and shared additional comments. She concluded that she did not feel an additional special meeting would be necessary.

Ms. Johnson explained that an email was sent to the City Manager's Office, as well as to a City Commissioner's Office, from Middle River Terrace Neighborhood Association president Troy Liggett, who had raised the issue of a lack of quorum. The Community Development Department Director provided both the City Manager and City Commissioner with a response citing steps the Board has taken to accommodate the public in recent months. The Director had concluded that the Board would be asked to consider scheduling an additional special meeting in light of the community's concerns.

Ms. Garcia-Arteaga observed that the Board has taken multiple steps to involve the public in the discussion of the 13th Street Roundabout project, including re-starting their analysis of the project, posting an additional survey, and scheduling the March 12 special meeting, among other efforts. She noted that Mr. Liggett had attended multiple meetings to provide public comment, and concluded that the Board is very well-informed of the community's wishes. She also did not feel an additional special meeting would be necessary.

Ms. Mohan agreed that there was no need for an additional meeting as well. Vice Chair Steinkamp observed that emergencies may happen at any time and can unfortunately affect a quorum.

The Board members declined to take action regarding an additional special meeting.

Chair Marks recalled that at the March 12 special meeting, Mr. Liggett had expressed dissatisfaction with the March 14 deadline for responses to the public survey. She advised that the deadline was established by City Commissioner Steven Glassman, who had distributed the survey via email. She emphasized that the Board could not overrule this deadline.

Chair Marks also pointed out that the Board members may ask questions of the artists after their presentations at tonight's meeting. They had been unable to do so at the March 12 meeting due to the lack of quorum.

- **Brooks Scarpa Huber**

Isabella Pedrosa, representing Brooks Scarpa Huber Architects, noted that the firm has previously presented its proposals to the Board and the public. The firm is located very near the 13th Street Roundabout site and proposes a project that will engage the community. The artist responsible for the project is Lawrence Scarpa.

Ms. Tanner asked what kind of timeline would apply to the community involvement portion of the project, such as a date by which they would need to sign up to participate. Ms. Pedrosa replied that most community engagement would occur during the earlier stages of the project, such as the pre-design phase. The artwork provided by members of the community would be sealed to protect it from corrosion and integrated into the fabrication of the work.

Ms. Garcia-Arteaga expressed concern with the proposed community involvement aspect of the project, noting that it could result in a graffiti-like appearance to the project. She cautioned that this could have an unintended consequence of attracting unwanted graffiti or other unwanted designs.

Ms. Tanner noted that the community engagement component could be different from how the Board may imagine it, such as input on the work's colors. Chair Marks suggested that there may be a way for the Board to work with both the community and the artist to ensure that there is no perception of graffiti as part of the work. Ms. Pedrosa confirmed that the firm would be willing to mitigate any perception of graffiti. She further clarified that the entire work would be coated and would use upcycled materials.

- **David Landis**

Mr. Landis gave a presentation on his proposed work, emphasizing the hands-on nature of his involvement in its fabrication. He hoped the work would attract visitors to the site. He noted the floral nature of one work, called *Celebration*, and showed a second piece based on the concept of the Three Graces.

Mr. Landis continued that the paint used in the project can be expected to last for over 20 years, adding that powder coating does not last as well in a tropical environment. The lower part of the project will be stainless steel and resistant to rust.

Ms. Tanner recalled that at the March 12 meeting, members of the community had expressed concern with the reflective nature of the material, particularly when touched by sunlight or headlights. Mr. Landis advised that he would not use any materials that would compromise safety. He reviewed estimated costs related to the work.

Vice Chair Steinkamp also expressed concern with the reflection of the materials. Mr. Landis replied that he would recommend painting the work to alleviate this concern.

- **William Nemitoff**

William Nemitoff, speaking via Zoom, presented his proposed work entitled *Radiance*, which is intended to present a connection to the Tekesta people, who were the first to live in the subject area. Materials include powder-coated stainless steel and polycarbonate. He emphasized the vibrance and diversity of the community.

Mr. Nemitoff continued that the materials used can be sandblasted and/or buffed to reduce distraction to drivers. He described the project as having a soft glow with subtle movement during both day and night. Lighting is integrated into the artwork. A community engagement aspect could be included in the process as well.

Mr. Nemitoff also presented a second piece, *Prismatic Petals*, which was inspired by local flora. He emphasized the vibrancy of the work's color, which would help illuminate the integrated lighting at night. Community input could be used to inform the etching on the work's petals.

Ms. Tanner requested additional information on the works' lighting. Mr. Nemitoff explained that he would use programmable LED lighting strips, which have expected lifespans of 15-20 years. They are inexpensive and easy to replace. The LED lights will cast light through the petals onto white polycarbonate so they will glow during the day as well as at night.

Chair Marks requested more information regarding the polycarbonate material. Mr. Nemitoff advised that he has used this material in other outside works; while it is UV-rated, he did not have information on its exact expected lifespan. The UV coating will prevent it from becoming brittle over time. He noted that a work in New Orleans includes polycarbonate that has lasted through multiple hurricanes. Another work including polycarbonate is in the city of Coral Springs.

Vice Chair Steinkamp asked if the Board members would be able to see more specific details of the artists' electrical plans for the site. Mr. Carden replied that any lighting would require an electrical permit, which would be submitted as part of the plans for the site and subject to review from an electrical engineer and/or electrician. He confirmed that the Board may see more information about electrical aspects of the selected project if that is their desire.

Mr. Carden reviewed the results of the community survey with the Board members. There were 121 responses, 56% of which came from the Middle River Terrace neighborhood. Additional responses came from the South Middle River neighborhood, Lake Ridge, Lauderdale Manors, and other communities.

The work proposed by Brooks Scarpa Huber was the highest-ranked choice, receiving 46% of the community vote. Second place went to William Nemitoff. 53 responses indicated that Brooks Scarpa Huber's design package was their favorite, constituting 44% of the vote. David Landis's work received 24 responses as favorite, with William Nemitoff's *Prismatic Petals* receiving 44 responses as favorite.

Chair Marks recalled that most of the public comments provided at the March 12 special meeting had indicated the same results.

The Board members discussed the presentations, including recognition that the community survey had indicated a preference for artwork with a local connection. Additional considerations included lighting, reflections, paint, and the work's proposed location in the center of the roundabout. All of the Board members emphasized the importance of community input and the local aspect of the work.

A review by the Board members indicated unanimous consensus for the Brooks Scarpa Huber work as their first choice.

Motion made by Ms. Tanner, seconded by Vice Chair Steinkamp, that we move forward with Brooks Scarpa for our 13th Street Roundabout art project/sculpture, and move forward with the contract for that artist. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Serena Savellana, Chief of Staff for City Commissioner Ben Sorensen, explained that she and Commissioner Sorensen hoped to reach out to the City's many advisory bodies and share their appreciation for the hours invested by volunteers in these boards and committees. She encouraged the Board to reach out to the Commissioner if necessary.

5. Pepe Gaka Updated Artwork Description

Mr. Carden recalled that the Board previously approved artist Pepe Gaka to create a mural in Peter Feldman Park at a commission of \$50,000. While the initial artwork concept incorporated the word "children," the final proposal does not include children. The City Attorney's Office has requested that this Item be brought back to the Board to approve the artist, his rendering, and the updated artwork description.

Chair Marks expressed concern that white space within the mural could attract graffiti. Mr. Carden confirmed that he would speak with the artist about this concern, but did not anticipate that graffiti would be an issue.

Ms. Johnson cautioned that Staff should not formulate the language used in motions by the Board.

Motion made by Ms. Mohan, seconded by Ms. Garcia-Arteaga, to recommend Pepe Gaka for this piece and accept his revised description and art design for Peter Feldman Park. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

6. 17th Street Causeway – E. Clay Shaw Bridge Lighting Project

Mr. Carden noted that the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) has given preliminary approval for the project, which is approximately a \$6 million commission. Broward County will allocate \$2 million and has raised an additional \$2.5 million through private fundraising. They are requesting that the City provide \$1 million, to be paid over a 10-year period at \$100,000/year.

Mr. Carden shared renderings of the proposed designs, which will include holiday lighting sequences on holidays that are pre-approved by the state of Florida. The state also requires that bridges may only be lit in red, white, and blue when there are no holidays. The artist, Tracey Dear, is a bascule lighting artist whose works are featured in Chicago and Tampa.

Mr. Carden advised that the project will need to go before the City Commission for approval of a joint Resolution between Fort Lauderdale and Broward County. The \$1 million request is separate and will require a budget amendment.

Motion made by Ms. Tanner, seconded by Ms. Garcia-Arteaga, to move forward with being 100% behind promoting the City of Fort Lauderdale to be involved with the 17th Street Bridge lighting project, and to ask for the \$1 million of extra financial need to finish it.

Mr. Carden confirmed that today's meeting minutes will be attached to this Commission Agenda Memo so the Commissioners may see the Board's discussion and support.

In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

7. Unsung Heroes at Little Lincoln Park Update

- **Mr. Walter "Mickey" Hinton**
- **Mr. Louis Benton**
- **Dr. William Morris**
- **Ms. Ellyn F. Walters**

Mr. Carden explained that he recently met with City Commissioner Dr. Pamela Beasley-Pittman and her staff, who had recommended adopting an approach that would honor the four individuals named above as the first part of the project. A rainbow eucalyptus tree will be planted at the site in their memory. Additional names will be honored going forward as more community feedback is collected.

Vice Chair Steinkamp explained that she had communicated with the Commissioner's staff as well, and there appeared to be some confusion between an earlier list of honorees and the current list. She added that students at Dillard High School have already contributed essays in recognition of prospective honorees.

The Board members discussed the project, noting the confusion related to the list of honorees. Ms. Tanner recommended that the Board postpone any action on this Item until they have spoken with Commissioner Dr. Beasley-Pittman for greater clarity. Mr. Carden advised that he has spoken with the Commissioner's staff, who indicated that the Commissioner wanted additional time to gather community input.

Chair Marks agreed with Ms. Tanner's earlier suggestion that the project be postponed pending additional clarification from Commissioner Dr. Beasley-Pittman. Ms. Garcia-Arteaga advocated for official communication from the Commissioner's office to the Board so they do not have to rely upon hearsay.

Motion made by Ms. Tanner, seconded by Ms. Mohan, to defer this Item of *Unsung Heroes* at Little Lincoln Park for the next meeting so we can have further clarification from Commissioner Pittman regarding her desires for the program. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Vice Chair Steinkamp concluded that the proposed title of the project is officially *The Legacy of Unsung Heroes*.

8. Pepe Gaka Updated Artwork Description

This Item was previously addressed.

9. Carlos Luna *Horse* Installation Update

Mr. Carden introduced Capital Projects Manager Monica Spiteri, who will assist with the installation of Carlos Luna's *Horse* sculpture in Esplanade Park. A meeting is scheduled for the next week to discuss this project further. The City has engaged an engineer, a general contractor, and an architect to begin the installation process. The artist has provided a partial scan of the work to assist in this process. Next steps include design of the platform and acquisition of permits for installation.

10. Ernesto Maranje Holiday Park Mural Update

Mr. Carden stated that artist Ernesto Maranje has begun work on the Holiday Park mural. It is expected to take an additional three weeks to complete the project, which has been delayed due to weather. The City's Strategic Communications team will make a time-lapse video of work on the mural, which will be available to the public. City Commissioner Steven Glassman has requested that a ribbon-cutting ceremony be held when the mural is complete.

11. 17th Street Causeway Bridge Lighting Project

This Item was previously addressed.

12. Public Art Ordinance Revision

Vice Chair Steinkamp expressed concern that the proposed Public Art Ordinance is inconsistent with the protocols of Americans for the Arts and the Florida Division of Cultural Affairs. She recommended that the attorneys responsible for drafting the Ordinance meet with the Board to discuss the need for greater consistency with these state and national protocols.

Mr. Carden requested that Vice Chair Steinkamp provide him with specific language to share with the City Attorney's Office. Chair Marks also suggested that the Vice Chair identify the sections of the draft Ordinance to which this language should be added.

Ms. Tanner recalled that the Board had previously discussed prospective changes to the Ordinance, but these changes were not reflected in the documentation sent to the members. Chair Marks observed that this placed the Board at a disadvantage when discussing further revisions, also noting that additional documents with recommendations from the Council of Fort Lauderdale Civic Association and the director of the Broward County Cultural Division had been provided to the members as well, which could contribute to confusion. Ms. Garcia-Arteaga proposed specific additions to the funding and selection criteria sections of the Ordinance as well.

The Board discussed the possibility of scheduling a special meeting to discuss the Public Art Ordinance at greater length. There was consensus among the members to look into extending the time allotted for their April 2026 meeting by an additional hour to accommodate further discussion of the Ordinance.

Motion made by Ms. Tanner, seconded by Ms. Garcia-Arteaga, to defer the City Art Code of Ordinances Chapter 9, Article 10, "In General," to defer to our next April meeting for further discussion with more information needed. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

13. New Business / Board Comments

Ms. Garcia-Arteaga advised that the Dolphin Democrats, which is a leading caucus within Broward County, will hold a midterm election endorsement event for local candidates. The organization meets the second Wednesday of each month at the Wilton Manors Pride Center.

Ms. Tanner stated that a collaborative hopscotch installation is scheduled to open at George English Park.

14. Communications to the Commission

None.

15. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:03 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.]