




CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#22-1078

TO: Honorable Mayor & Members of the Fort Lauderdale City Commission

FROM: Greg Chavarria, City Manager 
Greg Chavarria (Nov 1, 2022 17:47 EDT)

DATE: November 1, 2022

TITLE: **WALK ON** – Motion Accepting a Donation of Artwork from the James Winder Laird Trust, for Exhibition at the Henry E. Kinney Tunnel Top Park, and Authorizing the City Manager, in Consultation with the City Attorney, to Negotiate and Enter into an Escrow Agreement for the Commissioning, Purchase, Installation, and Future Maintenance, of Public Art, on behalf of the City of Fort Lauderdale – **(Commission District 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission approve a motion accepting a donation of artwork as described below from the James Winder Laird Trust, for exhibition in the Henry E. Kinney Tunnel Top Park (“Tunnel Top Park”), and authorizing the City Manager, in consultation with the City Attorney, to negotiate and enter into an Escrow Agreement for the commissioning, purchase, installation, and future maintenance, of public art, on behalf of the City of Fort Lauderdale.

Background

On October 14, 2022, the Trustee of the James Winder Laird Trust, Jeffrey Seth Selzer, Esq., notified the City of a specific bequest of \$5,000,000 worth of artwork to the City, encompassing the commissioning, purchase, installation and future maintenance of public art at Tunnel Top Park. This bequest is contingent upon:

- Placing a plaque in Tunnel Top Park notating that the artwork throughout Tunnel Top Park was at the bequest of the James Winder Laird Trust and designating the space as the “James Winder Laird Arts Park.” The park itself will retain the name Henry E. Kinney Tunnel Top Park.
- Noting the donor as the James Winder Laird Trust on each artwork’s identifying plaque.
- The first two acquisitions being:
 - Marc Quinn, *Broken Sublime (The Hunger)*, with a purchase price of \$650,000.00, exclusive of shipping, engineering, site-work, and installation
 - R&R Studios, *FTL*, with a commissioning cost of \$350,000.00 exclusive of foundation cost.

- The remaining funds, approximately \$3,500,000.00, being transferred to an escrow account and the City entering into an escrow agreement with the Trust to oversee the use of all funds.
- The Trust and its art advisor will select and propose subsequent artworks and sites to the Public Art & Placement Advisory Board for approval and recommendation to the City Commission.

Following the purchase of each piece of art, the artworks title, a deed of gift, will be transferred to the City.

Resource Impact

This action will result in a positive fiscal impact to the City. The amount of the donation is \$5,000,000 worth of artwork; however, no funds will be directly transferred to the City.

Strategic Connections

This item is a *2022 Top Commission Priority*, advancing the Parks and Public Places initiative of City beautification.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2024* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Public Places Focus Area
- Goal 3: Build a healthy and engaging community
- Objective: Enhance the City’s identity through public art, well-maintained green spaces, and streetscapes

This item advances the *Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035* Vision Plan: We Are Here

This item supports the *Advance Fort Lauderdale 2040* Comprehensive Plan specifically advancing:

- The Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Focus Area
- The Public Art in Parks Element
- Goal 2: Be a community with high quality parks and recreational facilities that highlight the character of our City.

Attachments

- Exhibit 1 – Selzer Law, Letter of Bequest Intention
- Exhibit 2 – James Winder Laird Trust Gift Presentation

Prepared by: Joshua Carden, Cultural Affairs Officer

Charter Officer: Greg Chavarria, City Manager