



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#25-0669

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: June 30, 2025

TITLE: Resolution Approving a Community Aesthetic Feature Agreement with the
Florida Department of Transportation; and Authorizing the City Manager to
Execute All Associated Agreements - (**Commission District 2**)

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission adopt a Resolution approving the Community Aesthetic Feature Agreement (CAFA) with the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) and authorizing the City Manager to execute the CAFA and all associated agreements.

Background

On November 1, 2022, the City Commission approved the donation of \$5,000,000 from the James Winder Laird Estate (the Estate) to fund the acquisition, installation, and maintenance of public art throughout the City. On November 1, 2022, the City Commission approved R&R Studio's *#FTL* as one of the first two pieces of public art to be donated by the Estate.

R&R Studios is a nationally recognized public art team known for large-scale, community-oriented installations. The sculpture is designed as a bold, vibrant placemaking icon that celebrates civic identity and encourages public interaction along Fort Lauderdale's signature beachfront.

This resolution and subsequent CAFA would allow for the installation of R&R Studio's *#FTL* sculpture at the intersection of A1A and Las Olas Boulevard. Originally, the *#FTL* sculpture was to be installed at Tunnel Top Park. However, it was determined that *#FTL* could not be installed at Tunnel Top Park due to engineering constraints and on February 6, 2024, the City Commission approved relocation of the sculpture to the new location on Fort Lauderdale beach at the intersection of A1A and Las Olas Boulevard. The agreement grants the City permission to install and maintain a public artwork within FDOT right-of-way, and outlines the responsibilities and conditions under which the project may proceed.

Under the terms of the agreement, the City will assume full responsibility for the design, installation, and ongoing maintenance of the artwork.

The project will be funded entirely by the Estate, with no financial obligation to FDOT.

The sculpture must be maintained in perpetuity by the City, including regular inspections and any necessary repairs. The agreement also requires the City to provide a \$13,500 removal and restoration bond to ensure the site can be returned to its original condition upon termination of the agreement or removal of the artwork.

The engineering and design plans have been prepared and reviewed by FDOT, and pending City Commission approval and execution of the CAFA, the City is prepared to move forward with the installation in coordination with FDOT. Fabrication of the #FTL sculpture is an approximately six-week process. City staff estimates the installation date to be in fall 2025 and will provide the City Commission with updates as the fabrication and permitting process moves forward. Note that the City has inquired with FDOT as to the potential modification of the project design to exclude the “#” portion of the sculpture. FDOT has indicated this modification is acceptable under the terms of the CAFA.

Resource Impact

This project would have no fiscal impact to the City. The Laird Estate is funding the fabrication, engineering, installation, required bond and ongoing maintenance of this project, until such time as funds are exhausted.

Strategic Connections

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Public Places Focus Area
- Goal 5: Build a beautiful and welcoming community.
- Objective: Improve the appearance of public parks, green spaces, and landscapes while attracting visitors and creating a sense of place for neighbors.

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 – Community Aesthetics Feature Agreement

Exhibit 2 – R&R Studio's Design Concept

Exhibit 3 – Site Survey

Exhibit 4 – FTL CD Set

Exhibit 5 – Resolution

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Department