



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
CRA BOARD MEETING

#23-0958

TO: CRA Chairman & Board of Commissioners
Fort Lauderdale Community Redevelopment Agency

FROM: Greg Chavarria, CRA Executive Director 
Greg Chavarria (Nov 7, 2023 06:20 EST)

DATE: November 7, 2023

TITLE: **REVISED CRA R-2** - Resolution Approving an \$8,000,000 Development Incentive Program Forgivable Loan and a \$2,000,000 Development Incentive Program Zero Interest Loan to Sunshine Shipyard, LLC for the Arcadian Project located at 640 NW 7th Avenue, Authorizing a Lease of Commercial Space in the Project to the Fort Lauderdale Community Redevelopment Agency, Authorizing the Executive Director to Execute Any and All Related Instruments, and Delegating Authority to the Executive Director to Take Certain Actions - **(Commission Districts 2 and 3)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) Board of Commissioners approve a Resolution for an \$8,000,000 Development Incentive Program forgivable loan and a \$2,000,000 Development Incentive Program zero interest loan to Sunshine Shipyard, LLC for the Arcadian Project at 640 NW 7th Avenue, authorize a lease of commercial space in the project to the Fort Lauderdale Community Redevelopment Agency, authorize the Executive Director to execute any and all related instruments, and delegate authority to the Executive Director to take certain actions.

Background

The Northwest-Progresso-Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Agency (NPF CRA) has received a CRA funding application from Sunshine Shipyard, LLC (Developer) for a \$10,000,000 Development Incentive Program Loan for the "Arcadian", a new mixed use development project to be located at 640 NW 7th Avenue. A location map is attached as Exhibit 1, the Developer's CRA Funding Application is attached as Exhibit 2, and the Broward County Property Appraiser information is attached as Exhibit 3.

The project will be constructed on the city block bordered by Sistrunk Boulevard to the south, NW 7th Street to the north, Avenue of the Arts (NW 7th Avenue) to the west, and NW 6th Avenue to the east. It includes an area of 3.47 acres of land assembled by the Developer between June 6, 2018 and April 10, 2019 at a cost of approximately \$9.8 million. The property was previously occupied by industrial and light industrial uses including the Sunshine Auto Salvage Yard which occupied the majority of the site. At the request of the Developer, on September 1, 2020, those portions of the site zoned for

Industrial use were rezoned by the City Commission to NWRAC MUE (Northwest Regional Activity Center Mixed Use East) and on July 5, 2022, the City Commission approved the site plan for the project with an affordable housing height bonus and an affordable Housing Development Agreement on August 16, 2022. The site has been cleared of all prior structures and the Final Development Review Committee (DRC) Certificate of Compliance is attached as Exhibit 4.

The approved project consists of an 8-story, mixed-use, mixed-income, multi-family development containing 480 residential rental units which includes 8 live/work units with 15,235 square feet of ground floor commercial space consisting of 7,735 square feet of retail and 7,500 square feet of restaurant use, and 606 parking spaces with structured parking. The residential unit mix consists of 90 - approximately 482 square foot studio units, 292 - approximately 653-899 square foot one bedroom/one bath units, and 98 - approximately 923-1,062 square foot two bedroom/two bath units. Of the 480 residential units, 10% (48 units) will be permanent affordable units rented to residents with incomes less or equal to 100% of the Broward County median family income (MFI) adjusted for household size, as determined by HUD on an annual basis, with rent and utility costs not to exceed 30% of the gross annual household income. The residential units set aside as affordable units in perpetuity will include 10 studio units renting for approximately \$1,680/month, 28 one bedroom-one bath units renting for approximately \$1,856/month, and 10 two bedroom-two bath units renting for approximately \$2,089/month. The affordable units will be scattered between all eight floors and appearances, finishes, and materials will not vary between affordable units and other units. A copy of the Affordable Housing Agreement with the City of Fort Lauderdale is attached as Exhibit 5, including requirements for annual reporting, restrictive covenants and marketing plan to promote the rental of affordable units. The remainder of the residential units in the development will be rented at market rate. The average monthly rent for the market rate units will be approximately \$2,016 for a studio apartment, \$2,160 for a one bedroom-one bath apartment, and \$2,592 for a two bedroom-two bath apartment.

Residential unit amenities and features for all apartments will include Energy Star stainless steel appliances including range, refrigerator, washer/dryer, and microwave, majestic bathroom mirrors, upscale obsidian floor tile, stone composition countertops, and all units will have balconies. The very attractive design includes two mixed-use buildings with a central atrium and two swimming pools. There will be secure access to the parking garage for 606 cars, 24/7 recorded security camera monitoring, bicycle racks, two jumbo screens, one in each courtyard, each with its own swimming pool in addition to a kid's playground and pet park. Other features include a fitness center, club rooms, kid's room, business center, mail/package room, lounge area and pedestrian paseo that provides a 30 foot wide central passage from east to west at midblock with access to building services and features. The paseo creates a unique public space and access to ground floor residential amenities at the base of the parking garage such as the lobby and gym that face the paseo.

First floor retail is located primarily along Sistrunk Boulevard and the Avenue of the Arts. Three corners of the site will provide plazas that allow for ample pedestrian circulation

and outdoor dining opportunities. In addition to affordable housing, as a community benefit, 2,500 square feet of commercial space in the project will be reserved for the CRA (or Invest Fort Lauderdale, it's Economic Development Corporation (EDC)) at \$12 per square foot NNN (with standard CPI annual escalations) for a period of 15 years. This will be a great opportunity for the CRA or its EDC to attract and target small businesses to the area offering an affordable rent.

Proposed building materials consist of limestone, steel mesh, aluminum, stucco, glass and decorated perforated canvas for the garage. The building provides a 15-foot-high ground floor, stone finish walls, and decorative aluminum trellises for shading along Sistrunk Boulevard and Avenue of the Arts. Floors two through five are framed providing articulation to the facades. The parking garage is enhanced with artwork and balconies are contained throughout the building, providing depth, articulation and unit activation along the four facades. Shade trees along with the trellises shade pedestrian space and the sidewalks along all facades. The project's key sustainability features include over 75% green roof area, heat mitigation through choice of material, and electric vehicle charging stations. The project is committed to become National Green Building Standard (NGBS) Gold Certified by Home Innovation Research Labs, providing the highest performance levels in energy efficiency, water efficiency, resource efficiency, lot development, operation, maintenance and air quality. Plans for the Project are attached as Exhibit 6.

The Developer, Sunshine Shipyard LLC, is an affiliated company of Fuse Group Investment Companies, led by founder and CEO Eyal Peretz. Fuse Group has been investing in the CRA and specifically the Sistrunk area for the last six years, with a mission of making the Sistrunk District a vibrant epicenter which is full of life and occupied by businesses, retail, lifestyle and entertainment to serve and empower the community, proving infrastructure and transforming the visual experience of the area. Fuse Group (Fuse 9, LLC) has partnered with Boca Paila, LLC on this project. Boca Paila is led by Mauricio Girault, founder and CEO of Grupo Krea, a leading developer of affordable and workforce housing. Mr. Girault has built large-scale integrated communities amounting to over 14,000 residential units in eleven large scale projects and is known for innovation in construction using the latest cost and time efficient technologies. Grupo Krea has partnered with South Pointe Construction as a general Contractor to undertake the construction of the Arcadian using the aluminum form construction method. South Pointe Construction has a proven track record spanning over three decades in the construction and development industry of South Florida, including over \$1 billion of construction volume, including single family, multi-family, office, medical, restaurant and special purpose structures. A few sample projects include Sapphire Condominium in Fort Lauderdale, The Estates of Acqualina in Sunny Isles, The Ritz Carlton Residences in Sunny Isles, and Millicento Condominium on Brickell in Miami. Other members of the Arcadian project team include Behar Font & Partners (Architect), Witkin Hults + Partners (Landscape Architect), Flynn Engineering Services, PA. (Land Planner and Civil Engineering), and Holland & Knight, LLP (Land Use Attorney).

The total estimated project Development Budget is \$153,384,269 including:

Land	\$25,000,000
Design & Engineering	\$1,998,990
Permits & Licenses	\$4,505,979
Other Soft Costs	\$7,336,639
Hard Costs	\$103,168,054
Financial Costs	\$11,374,707

CRA funding for the project represents 6.5% of the total Development Budget. Developer equity (\$44,904,269) represents 29.3% of the budget, with lender financing of \$98,500,000 (64.2%). A comparison of other CRA funded Development Incentive Program projects is provided below.

Project	Estimated Capital Investment (ECI)	CRA Award	CRA Award Percentage of ECI
Food and Friends	\$1.3 Million	\$1.1 Million	84%
Dales Wheels and Tires	\$0.97 Million	\$.7 Million	74%
Hoover Awning	\$1.5 Million	\$1.1 Million	73%
YMCA	\$15 million	\$10 Million	67%
Victory Complex	\$4 Million	\$2.4 Million	60%
Aldridge and Larimore	\$18.57 Million	\$8.0 Million	43%
Jack and Jill School	\$7.1 Million	\$2.5 Million	35%
Wright Dynasty	\$12.8 Million	\$3.5 Million	27%
Thrive Development	\$15.4 Million	\$3.5 Million	26%
Sistrunk Market	\$5.9 Million	\$1.4 Million	23%
Sistrunk Townhomes	\$6.9 Million	\$1.5 Million	22%
Six 13 Apartments	\$33.5 Million	\$7.0 Million	21%
Comfort Suites	\$17.4 Million	\$3.0 Million	17%
Triangle Services	\$7.8 Million	\$1.5 Million	19%
The Adderley	\$103.7 Million	\$12.0 Million	12%

The \$10,000,000 Development Incentive Program (DIP) Loan for the Arcadian Project will consist of an \$8,000,000 DIP forgivable loan, forgiven once 5 years after the entire project receives a Certificate of Occupancy (CO), and a \$2,000,000 DIP loan at 0% interest, repaid by the Developer at \$200,000 per year for 10 years following CO. CRA funding will be secured by a mortgage on the property subordinate to the first mortgage construction and permanent financing. CRA funding will be applied to project construction cost.

As an additional community benefit of the project, the DIP loan payments will be assigned to Invest Fort Lauderdale for reinvestment back into the CRA area. Community benefits from the project also include approximately 1,670 jobs, including 68 permanent jobs for retail employees, 1,460 direct and indirect jobs from construction activity, and 142 jobs from resident spending, and an estimated \$154 million in economic activity from

construction, retail and resident spending. In addition, the project is estimated to generate up to \$31 million in real estate taxes over the next 15 years.

A series of factors make CRA funding critical to the project, including an increase in construction cost (up 40% over the past 36 months), insurance premiums (a 33% increase over the last year), and increase in interest rates (significantly impacting the cost of development) since the project was initially planned. In this volatile and changing development market, without CRA funding, acceptable investment measures of risk cannot be met when analyzing the projected return on investment to the cost of the project.

In order to be able to fund this project, the CRA, at the request of Fuse Group (Exhibit 7), will take the \$4 million approved under the DIP Program by the CRA Board on December 7, 2021 for the proposed 909 Sistrunk Project awarded to 909 NW 6 St LLC (A Fuse Group subsidiary) and reallocate these funds to the Arcadian Project.

These are not CRA tax increment funds (TIF), but rather are funds that are part of the \$22.5 million Truist Bank Loan the CRA took out in 2021 to help jump start larger development projects before the NPF CRA is scheduled to sunset in November 2025. Fuse Group has proposed changes to the 909 Sistrunk Project that will delay the start of construction. To accommodate the changes, funding for the 909 Sistrunk Project will now be recommended from CRA TIF FY 2024-2025 tax increment revenues. An Amended Letter of Intent with 909 NW 6 Street LLC and changes in CRA source of funds for the 909 Sistrunk Project will be presented to the CRA Board for their consideration at their meeting of November 21, 2023.

An additional \$3 million will be allocated to the Arcadian Project in CRA TIF FY 2023-2024 funding, with the last \$3 million installment to the Arcadian Project of CRA funding allocated in TIF FY 2024-2025. The Arcadian Project will be developed in two phases. With CRA funding approval, Phase 1 of this shovel ready project will commence immediately with completion and stabilization at the end of 2025. Phase 2 will commence in April 2025 with completion and stabilization in 2027.

At their meeting of September 12, 2023, the NPF CRA Advisory Board unanimously recommended that that the CRA Board:

- 1) Approve a \$10,000,000 Development Incentive Program loan to Sunshine Shipyard, LLC for the Arcadian Project, consisting of a \$8,000,000 forgivable loan and a \$2,000,000 zero interest loan repaid over 10 years with CRA loan payments assigned to Invest Fort Lauderdale, the CRA's economic development corporation, and
- 2) Approve changes to the 909 Sistrunk Project with 909 NW 6 St LLC, including scope, schedule, and source of CRA funds.

A copy of the minutes of the September 12, 2023 NPF CRA Advisory Board is attached as Exhibit 8. The Development Incentive Program Letter of Intent with Sunshine Shipyard LLC for the Arcadian Project and Resolution is attached as Exhibits 9 and 10.

Consistency with NPF CRA Community Redevelopment Plan

The NPF CRA Community Redevelopment Plan promotes programs and projects that will have a positive impact on neighborhood residents and low and moderate income households within the NPF CRA. The Redevelopment Program will assist in providing incentives as inducements to stimulate development to upgrade and replace incompatible land uses and blighting conditions affecting the area, and the Redevelopment Plan will help preserve and expand the supply of affordable housing and provide improvements to enhance the overall environment, improve the quality of life and attract sound business and commercial development that provide employment and job opportunities.

A major component of the redevelopment strategy for the NPF CRA is the revitalization of the residential neighborhoods. The Redevelopment Program seeks to preserve and expand affordable housing in the entire redevelopment area. Per the CRA plan, the CRA will establish incentive programs to address redevelopment obstacles. The CRA Program identifies strategic objectives, goals and measurements that include targeting and attracting businesses, retail uses and industries to establish a presence in the redevelopment area. In addition, it calls for investing in development projects that create job opportunities, promote public private partnerships and investment in the redevelopment area. In addition, per the Future Land Use Plan and CRA Plan, redevelopment and housing opportunities for low, very low, and moderate-income households within the Northwest RAC should be encouraged.

Resource Impact

There will be a fiscal impact to the CRA in the amount of \$10,000,000. Funds for this transaction will be spread over two years; \$7,000,000 in Fiscal Year 2024 and \$3,000,000 in Fiscal Year 2025.

Future expenditures are contingent upon approval and appropriation of the annual budget.

Funds available as of October 1, 2023					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST CENTER NAME (Program)	CHARACTER /ACCOUNT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
20-119-1532-552-40-4203-CRA092113	NPF CRA Business Incentives - Debt	Other Operating Expense/Redevelopment Projects	\$20,000,000	\$17,550,000	\$4,000,000
20-119-1531-552-40-4203-CRA092404	Development Incentive Improvement Program FY24	Other Operating Expense/Redevelopment Projects	\$15,150,540	\$15,150,540	\$3,000,000
TOTAL AMOUNT ►					\$7,000,000

Strategic Connections

This item is a *FY2024 Commission Priority*, advancing the Economic Development & Housing Accessibility initiatives.

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

- The Business Development Focus Area
- Goal 5: Build an attractive global and local economic community marketplace
- Objective: Nurture and support existing local businesses

- The Neighborhood Enhancement Focus Area
- Goal 4: Build a thriving and inclusive community of neighborhoods
- Objective: Ensure a range of affordable housing options

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

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

- The Business Development Focus Area
- The Economic Development Element
- Goal 2: Enhance the economic competitiveness of Fort Lauderdale through policies and encourage retention and recruitment of businesses and industry which provide living wage employment and increased training and competitiveness in the local workforce.

- The Neighborhood Enhancement Focus Area
- The Future Land Use Element
- Goal 2: Sustainable Development: The City shall encourage sustainable, smart growth which designates areas for future growth, promotes connectivity, social equity, preservation of neighborhood character and compatibility of uses.
- The Housing Element
- Goal 1: The Comprehensive Plan shall support the provision of adequate sites for future housing, including affordable workforce housing, housing for low-income, very low-income, and moderate-income families, mobile homes, and group home facilities and foster care facilities, with supporting infrastructure and public facilities.
- Goal 2: Be a community of beautiful and healthy neighborhoods.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 - Location Map – The Arcadian

Exhibit 2 - Developer's CRA Funding Application for the Arcadian

Exhibit 3 - Broward County Property Appraiser Information

Exhibit 4 - Final Development Review Committee (DRC) Certificate of Compliance

Exhibit 5 - Affordable Housing Agreement for the Arcadian

Exhibit 6 - Arcadian Project Plans

Exhibit 7 - Letter from Fuse Group

Exhibit 8 - September 12, 2023 CRA Advisory Board Draft Minutes Recommending
Funding for the Arcadian Project and Changes to the 909 Sistrunk Project

Exhibit 9 - Development Incentive Program Letter of Intent – The Arcadian Project

Exhibit 10 - Resolution

Prepared by: Bob Wojcik, AICP, CRA Housing and Economic Development Manager
Clarence Woods, CRA Manager

CRA Executive Director: Greg Chavarria