



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#26-0326

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: March 19, 2026

TITLE: **WALK ON** – Resolution Delegating Authority to the City Manager to Submit a Grant Application to the Florida Inland Navigation District – Waterway Assistance Program for the International Swimming Hall of Fame Peninsula Public (Elevated) Promenade Design - \$565,000 Subject to Conditions – **(Commission District 2)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission adopt a Resolution authorizing the City Manager to submit an application, in substantially the form attached, for grant funding in the amount of \$565,000 to Florida Inland Navigation District (FIND) – Waterways Assistance Program for the Public (Elevated) Promenade Design, subject to conditions. This Grant requires a funding match of fifty percent (50%).

Background

The City of Fort Lauderdale and Hall of Fame Partners (HOFP) entered into a comprehensive agreement in 2023 for the construction, maintenance and operation of the East and West buildings at the International Swimming Hall of Fame Complex. The project was split into four (4) separate phases:

- Phase 1 - Replacement of the peninsula seawall and the design and construction of the Ocean Rescue Headquarters;
- Phase 2 - The design and construction of the West building and the ground level promenade;
- Phase 3 - The design and construction of the East building; and
- Phase 4 - Dock work and general site improvements.

HOFP identified potential grant funding opportunities that would reduce the total Project cost, which will in turn reduce the City's financial exposure and ultimate annual lease payment upon Project commissioning.

FIND administers the Waterway Assistance Program (WAP) and provides funding assistance to local governments within the district to provide public access to the district's waterways. In 2025, the City was awarded up to \$4,270,769 for seawall construction and design of the public promenade and water dock.

For the 2026 FIND application period, HOFPP, via the City of Fort Lauderdale, intends to submit three (3) new grant applications, via three (3) Commission Agenda Memos, to help enhance and improve the peninsula at 501 Seabreeze Boulevard, home to the Fort Lauderdale Aquatic Center and the International Swimming Hall of Fame.

The proposed resolution supports a grant funding application for the Public (Elevated) Promenade Design. The design cost estimate is \$565,000. The grant request is for fifty percent (50%) of the design cost, which is \$282,500 with the remaining fifty percent (50%), if awarded, being funded by HOFPP. The Public (Elevated) Promenade design includes an elevated promenade would connect to the Public (West) Promenade to Seabreeze Boulevard (State Road A1A). The intent of the design is to increase safety considerations by separating pedestrian and vehicular facilities. This effort supports the overall connectivity of the waterway, the peninsula, and the greater barrier island.

The elevated promenade will be accessible to the public via the western (at-grade level) promenade and the eastern end of the peninsula. The proposed plans include seating, landscaping, and other features to connect both users of land and water to the peninsula amenities.

The other two (2) grant applications include:

- CAM #26-0325 – Public (West) Promenade Construction - The construction cost estimate is \$815,000. The grant request is for fifty percent (50%) of the construction cost, which is \$407,500 with the remaining fifty percent (50%), if awarded, being funded by HOFPP. The project will provide connectivity from the proposed public dock to the peninsula amenities and to the greater barrier island.
- CAM #26-0327 – Public (Elevated) Promenade Construction - The construction cost estimate is \$10,000,000. The grant request is for fifty percent (50%) of the construction cost, which is \$5,000,000 with the remaining fifty percent (50%), if awarded, being funded by HOFPP.

City staff recommend that the City Commission approve the proposed resolution to potentially reduce the total cost of the International Swimming Hall of Fame Complex project by \$282,500. The City will be the grant applicant and if awarded, will be required to provide the grant match (through HOFPP private funds) and oversee reporting and compliance requirements.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with the grant application. The grant will be brought back to the City Commission for execution and appropriation if awarded. The funding

source for the City match will be provided by Hall of Fame Partners LLC as part of the International Swimming Hall of Fame Comprehensive Agreement.

Strategic Connections

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

- The Public Safety Focus Area, Goal 1: Be a safe community that is proactive and responsive to risks.

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 Public Safety Focus Area
- The Coastal Management, Community Health and Safety Element
- Goal 4: Coordinate with related partners and agencies (at city, local, county, regional, state, and federal levels) to plan for disaster and emergency management, further the resiliency of coastal areas, and ensure city-wide community health and safety.

Related CAMs

26-0325
26-0327

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Grant Application Form
Exhibit 2 – Resolution

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Charter Officer: Rickelle Williams, City Manager