



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING

#24-0554

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

FROM: Susan Grant, Acting City Manager *Susan Grant*

DATE: May 21, 2024

TITLE: **Walk On** - Acquisition of Manolo Valdes Sculpture - **(District 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission approve the acquisition of Manolo Valdes' *Head with Butterflies* as an integral part of the James Winder Laird Donation and authorize the placement of the sculpture within Huizenga Park. The City will retain ownership of the sculpture and will work with the Downtown Development Authority to place the sculpture.

Background

In November of 2022 the City Commission approved the donation of \$5,000,000 from the James Winder Laird estate to fund the acquisition, installation, and maintenance of public art throughout the City. The City has an opportunity to acquire a sculpture by Manolo Valdes titled, *Head with Butterflies* for \$800,000. The sculpture will be displayed within Huizenga Park.

Resource Impact

There is no fiscal impact associated with this action. The sculpture will be acquired by the Estate for \$800,000 and installed at their sole expense.

Strategic Connections

This item is a *2024 Top Commission Priority*, advancing the Parks and Public Places initiative of City beautification.

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.

Attachment

Exhibit 1 – Manolo Valdes *Head with Butterflies*

Prepared by: Joshua Carden, Cultural Affairs Officer

Department Director: Christopher Cooper, AICP, Development Services
Department