



**CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
City Commission Agenda Memo
REGULAR MEETING**

#26-0210

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: March 19, 2026

TITLE: Motion Approving Walk of Fame Committee Recommendations for the 2026
Walk of Fame Inductees – **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission approve a motion accepting the recommendations from the Walk of Fame (WOF) Committee for the 2026 inductees into the City of Fort Lauderdale Walk of Fame.

Background

The City of Fort Lauderdale established the Walk of Fame in 2010 at the inaugural Great American Beach Party to pay tribute to the legendary Connie Francis on the 50th Anniversary of “Where the Boys Are,” the 1960 film which made Fort Lauderdale an overnight sensation and a “must see” destination for visitors.

WOF honorees are recognized for making sustained, positive impacts in one (1) or more of the following areas, including but not limited to:

- Providing a positive outlook for the future of our youth;
- Contributing to the quality of life for our citizens;
- Fostering the spirit of our community;
- Bringing positive recognition to the City, locally or nationally;
- Making Fort Lauderdale a place to live, work, or play; or
- Encouraging people to visit Fort Lauderdale as a destination of choice.

Honorees are commemorated with a personalized bronze paver placed along the WOF, located on the east side of State Road A1A just north of Las Olas Boulevard, to memorialize their outstanding contributions to the City.

The City Commission appoints a committee annually to serve as the review board. The committee members include Gail Butler (Chair), Lillian Small, George Platt, Genia Ellis, Ina Lee, Patrick Shavloske, and Dr. George Hanbury. For 2026 inductions, the City received thirteen (13) nomination applications during the application period of October 10 through December 15, 2025.

To date, the WOF Committee has named over fifty (50) honorees who have helped shape the City of Fort Lauderdale into the destination it is today. At the January 29, 2025, WOF Committee meeting, there was a discussion focused on the number of inductees to be recommended. City staff recommended that the WOF Committee recommend three (3) honorees, the Committee deliberated to increase this number to recognize a broader range of contributions to the City. A motion was made to recommend four (4) nominees for 2025, and the motion was unanimously approved (Exhibit 3).

The following is the historical list of WOF honorees (2010 – 2025):

Year	Name(s)
2010	1. Connie Francis
2011	1. City of Fort Lauderdale Centennial 2. Louise Crocco 3. Brent Jett 4. Marcia Pinder 5. Rick Shaw 6. George Smith
2012	1. H. Wayne Huizenga 2. Jimmy Evert 3. Chris Evert 4. Woody Woodbury
2013	1. W. George Allen 2. The Gill Family 3. Jack Drury
2014	1. John Amodeo 2. Jerome "Jerry" Faber 3. "Crazy" Gregg Newell
2015	1. Ina Lee 2. Hugh Taylor Birch 3. Dr. Ron O'Brien 4. Tim Schiavone
2016	1. George L. Burrows Sr. 2. Fort Lauderdale Ocean Rescue 3. Nicki E. Grossman 4. Reverend Monsignor Vincent T. Kelly
2017	1. Dr. George Hanbury II 2. Kaye Pearson 3. The Motwani Family 4. The Zloch Brothers

2018	1. Evelyn Fortune Bartlett 2. Beauregard Cummings 3. Dr. Elliott Miley Hendricks 4. Robert B. "Buddy" Lochrie Jr.
2019	1. Walter Banks 2. Levi Henry Jr. 3. The Perry Family 4. Stanford "Stan" Smoker
2020	No Appointments
2021	1. John D. MacDonald 2. Michael E. Hurst 3. Eugenia Duncan Ellis 4. Sylvia Aldridge
2022	1. James A. Dallas Sr. 2. Lisa Scott-Founds 3. Ivy Cromartie Stranahan 4. William "Bill" Walker
2023	1. Shane Strum 2. Frank Adderley 3. Eula Johnson 4. C.A. "Chuck" Black 5. Michael Egan
2024	1. Dr. Guy Harvey 2. Carlton B. Moore 3. Bruce G. Roberts
2025	1. Robert Bekoff 2. Kathleen Cannon 3. Richard Gray 4. Paul M. Sallarulo

The WOF Committee met on January 28, 2026, to consider nominations for the 2026 WOF. Following discussion, the Committee voted unanimously (Exhibit 2) to recommend the following individuals for induction into the City of Fort Lauderdale's WOF:

- William "Bill" Kent - Advanced Fort Lauderdale's global aquatic reputation by revitalizing the International Swimming Hall of Fame, championing "Every child a swimmer" to protect youth, and leading Team Horner's employee ownership program.
- Stacy Ritter - As Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of Visit Lauderdale, Ms. Ritter's contributions dramatically impact the sustainability and growth of the City of Fort Lauderdale and the region.

- John “Jack” Seiler - A twenty-five (25)-year elected public servant and former Mayor, Mr. Seiler played a significant role in shaping what Fort Lauderdale has become today.
- Linda Carter - Devoting more than four (4) decades to building permanent institutions that strengthen youth, families, and non-profits, Ms. Carter raised the overall quality of life in the City of Fort Lauderdale and the region.

Pursuant to City Commission feedback at its February 17, 2026, City Commission Regular meeting, City staff will meet with the WOF Committee to reduce the nominee recommendations to two (2) per year moving forward.

Upon approval by the City Commission, the honorees will be officially notified of their selection. The induction ceremony will be part of the Great American Beach Party, a city-produced signature event that takes place over Memorial Day weekend. The event will be held on Saturday, May 23, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Las Olas Oceanside Park (LOOP). As part of this event, each honoree’s WOF paver will be officially unveiled.

Resource Impact

Funds for the purchase of the personalized bronze pavers, in the amount of \$8,517, are available in the Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 budget in the account listed below:

<i>Funds available as of February 4, 2026</i>					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST CENTER NAME (Program)	CHARACTER/ACCOUNT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT
10-001-6025-574-30-3999-PSE004	Great American Beach Party	Services/Materials / Other Supplies	\$105,700	\$105,700	\$8,517
TOTAL AMOUNT ►					\$8,517

Strategic Connections

This item is a FY 2026 Commission Priority, advancing the Public Spaces and Cultural Initiatives.

This item supports the 2029 Strategic Plan, specifically advancing:

- The Public Places Focus Area, Goal 5: Build a beautiful and welcoming community.

This item advances the Fast Forward Fort Lauderdale 2035 Vision Plan: We are Here.

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

- The Public Places Focus Area
- The Parks, Recreation & Open Spaces Area
- Goal 2: Be a community with high quality parks and recreational facilities that highlight the character of our city.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Walk of Fame Nominee Applications

Exhibit 2 – Walk of Fame Committee Draft Minutes, January 28, 2026

Exhibit 3 – Walk of Fame Committee Minutes, January 29, 2025

Exhibit 4 – List of Honorees (2010-2025)

Prepared by: Carolyn Bean, Assistant to the Director, Parks and Recreation

Department Director: Carl Williams, Parks and Recreation