



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

**#25-0566**

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

**FROM:** Rickelle Williams, City Manager

**DATE:** September 16, 2025

**TITLE:** Public Art and Placemaking Program – **(Commission Districts 1, 2, 3 and 4)**

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City staff requests City Commission direction on proposed amendments to the City of Fort Lauderdale's Public Art and Placemaking Program (Program). Since its adoption in 2020, the current Program, requiring two percent (2%) of the value of eligible City capital improvement projects to fund public art, has proven ineffective due to broad exemptions that have prevented the collection of public art contributions. As a result, despite significant capital investments, the City has been unable to build a reliable funding stream to support its growing cultural and creative arts infrastructure.

To ensure the long-term viability of the Program, City staff has outlined several Program options for City Commission consideration. Options include:

- Rescinding the existing requirement for a specific contribution from capital projects and providing staff direction by resolution to include public art in future public building designs and select capital projects;
- Encourage public art within private development by incentives through the development approval process; and
- Require public art and sense of place elements within planning initiative areas such as the Downtown, Northwest, Central Beach, Uptown, and South Andrews Regional Activity Centers.

Additionally, the City's Fiscal Year 2026 proposed budget includes \$315,028 to fund the Public Art and Placemaking Program to provide sponsorships, art activations, art events, temporary art installations, marketing for activations and installations, and administrative support.

These revisions will align Fort Lauderdale's Public Art and Placemaking Program with national best practices while supporting permanent and temporary art installations, conservation of existing art, art and cultural education, and administrative capacity. Together, these changes will position public art as essential cultural infrastructure that is integrated into the City's growth, reflective of its identity, and accessible to all residents.

**Resource Impact**

No fiscal impact.

**Strategic Connections**

This item is a FY 2025 Commission Priority advancing the Public Spaces and Cultural Initiative.

This item supports the *Press Play Fort Lauderdale 2029* Strategic Plan, specifically advancing the Public Spaces Focus Area—Goal 5: Build a beautiful and welcoming community

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 Spaces Focus Area

**Attachment**

Exhibit 1 – Public Art Presentation

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