



CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE

**MEETING MINUTES
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
PUBLIC ART & PLACEMENT ADVISORY BOARD
FORT LAUDERDALE EXECUTIVE AIRPORT
AIRPORT RED TAILS CONFERENCE ROOM
6000 NW 21ST AVE, FORT LAUDERDALE, FL 33309
JUNE 19, 2023 – 1:00 P.M.**

<u>MEMBERS</u>		January-December 2023	
		<u>PRESENT</u>	<u>ABSENT</u>
Sarah Glass, Chair	P	4	0
Martha Steinkamp, Vice Chair	P	4	0
Lisa Burgess	A	1	2
Phoenix Marks	P	4	0
Andrew Martineau	P	3	1
Gregory Reed	A	2	2
Robyn Vegas	P	4	0

As of this date, there are 7 appointed members to the Board, which means 4 would constitute a quorum.

Staff Present

Joshua Carden, Cultural Affairs Officer
Carla Blair, Recording Clerk, Prototype, Inc.

Communication to the City Commission

Motion made, seconded by Vice Chair Steinkamp, to formally communicate our approval of the Laird estate donations at the next Commission meeting. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Roll Call

Chair Glass called the meeting to order at 1:12 p.m.

Approval of Minutes – 3/20/23

Ms. Vegas noted a correction to the March 20, 2023 minutes: the surname “Clearwater” should be changed to “Barnett” throughout.

Ms. Marks also requested that p.2, paragraph 5 include the examples provided by the Mayor of public art which could be incorporated into a project’s design.

Mr. Carden cautioned that while the Mayor had cited these examples, infrastructure projects would not contribute toward art in public places according to the Ordinance.

Contributing projects would be limited to buildings rather than infrastructure and would not apply unless agreements were signed before July 2020. He recommended a determination from the City Attorney's Office regarding whether the examples the Mayor had cited at the Swimming Hall of Fame and the ice rink were appropriate, as these are located at separate businesses and are not public facilities. He concluded that he would follow up on the accuracy of these examples.

The Board further discussed the Mayor's comments made at the March 20, 2023 meeting.

Motion made by Ms. Vegas, seconded by Vice Chair Steinkamp, to approve as amended. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

1. Welcome

2. Arts & Economic Prosperity 6 Study – Americans for the Arts Update

Mr. Carden stated that Phase 1 of the Arts and Economic Prosperity 6 Study has concluded. Nearly 2000 surveys have been returned from cultural events throughout Fort Lauderdale over the past eight months. He recognized the efforts of the City's cultural organizations which assisted with these surveys, noting the Broward Center for the Performing Arts in particular.

Phase 2 of the study will end on Friday, June 23, 2023. Mr. Carden estimated that 80% of the City's cultural institutions have reported information on their finances, number of events, attendance levels, salaries, revenue, and expenses, which will be included in the study. He has reached out to the organizations that have not yet reported this information, most of which are smaller entities with nominal budgets. There are 71 cultural nonprofit entities registered within Fort Lauderdale.

3. Peter Toth Statue #44 Relocation Update

Mr. Carden reminded the Board that Peter Toth's *Statue #44* is currently located at D.C. Alexander Park, which is undergoing major renovations. The sculpture has suffered damage from termites and water, and non-conservation techniques have been employed to maintain it over several years. Moving the sculpture could significantly compromise its integrity. As a result, the City has determined that the statue will be crated in place during renovations of the park.

Mr. Carden continued that he has reviewed bids from companies that specialize in art crating and would be able to accommodate a structure of *Statue #44*'s size. Due to the size and location of the sculpture, the crate must be engineered to hurricane and Building Code standards, and will require permits. Two of the three art moving companies consulted have declined to bid on the crating. He is still awaiting a quote from the third entity.

Mr. Carden noted that the sculpture is surrounded primarily by grass for 40 to 50 ft. on all sides, with no construction planned within its immediate vicinity. He has checked on the sculpture more than once and feels it is safe for the time being.

Ms. Vegas requested clarification of when Tunnel Top Park is expected to be complete. Mr. Carden replied that the most recent date provided to the City by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) was May 31, 2023, which has already passed. Work is underway in preparation for the installation of the Marc Quinn sculpture, including the completion of plans for its base and other required site work. FDOT has recently provided draft documents which have been sent to the project's general contractor and engineer.

Mr. Martineau asked if the delay has cost the City additional funds for storage of the artwork. Mr. Carden advised that storage costs \$4500 per month. This fee is paid the Laird estate, which donated the piece.

Vice Chair Steinkamp asked if any entity has addressed the aging infrastructure around the area with regard to the risk of flooding. Mr. Carden replied that a plan is underway for the full Las Olas area.

4. Laird Estate Donation

Mr. Carden stated that the Laird estate has brought forward two new pieces on which they would like the Board's input. The Board's decision will be sent as a communication to the City Commission, who will provide final approval.

- **Carlos Luna, *Horse*, 2021, Aluminum**

Mr. Carden noted that this piece, sculpted by Carlos Luna, is a carriage horse constructed from aluminum. It is approximately six feet tall and eight feet wide. The artist has offered this piece at a reduced price of \$350,000. The base and site work are estimated to cost an additional \$60,000.

Mr. Carden advised that he has experience with another piece by the artist, which has aged well and requires low maintenance.

Vice Chair Steinkamp requested an update on the funding provided by the Laird estate. Mr. Carden replied that approximately \$3.4 million remains. *Horse* would be placed in Tunnel Top Park or along the Riverwalk, although a specific site has not yet been identified. He emphasized, however, that he would like to see the pieces previously selected by the Laird estate installed before subsequent pieces are sited.

There was agreement that the Riverwalk would be an appropriate site for the Luna sculpture. Mr. Carden noted that he has spoken with Riverwalk representatives about

replacing some of the existing sailboats with newer artwork. The plinths could be refinished and re-used for other projects.

Vice Chair Steinkamp asked how the Board can make decisions on any new artwork when the total storage cost of the Quinn sculpture has not yet been determined. Mr. Carden estimated that the Quinn sculpture will remain in storage for a maximum of six additional months. He felt the impact of storage expenses on the overall amount of the donation was negligible.

Vice Chair Steinkamp asserted that the original \$5 million donation was not a very large amount, and asked if the Board must commit to the Luna work and other sculptures, or if they can wait before making a decision. Mr. Carden pointed out that the intent of the donation was to spend it relatively quickly on artwork. He also clarified that the donation is not an endowment, but a one-time donation that will not be replenished.

Chair Glass commented that she was not certain the sculpture should be placed at Tunnel Top Park. Mr. Carden agreed that he also had concerns with that prospective location, as the park's layout is very small. He reiterated that there are potential alternate locations, such as the Riverwalk, although the existing plinths at that site may require some remediation. He also noted that the artist is based in Miami and may be able to house the piece prior to its installation.

Motion made by Mr. Martineau, seconded by Ms. Vegas, to approve this piece, *Horse* by Carlos Luna, and would like to make a suggestion to establish the piece in a location other than Tunnel Top Park. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Mr. Carden confirmed that the **motion** would be sent to the City Commission, and that he would ask the artist if it would be possible to store the sculpture.

Vice Chair Steinkamp asked if any difficulty might arise from installing the sculpture at a different location than Tunnel Top Park. Mr. Carden did not feel this was a concern, as the Laird estate is aware of the space limitations at that park.

- **Cracking Art Group, *Snail* (Large, Pink), Recycled Plastic**

Mr. Carden continued that the Laird estate has also suggested *Snail*, which was created by an artists' collaborative called Cracking. It is comprised of two large pink snails which will be fabricated from recycled plastic upon order. While the piece would not last forever, he estimated that it can be placed outdoors for six to eight years without major conservation efforts; however, it would be more difficult to repair in case of damage. The Laird estate is aware of these potential issues.

The cost of the *Snail* pieces would be \$61,000 for the pair. Because they are meant to be placed outdoors, the installation process would be much simpler. The pieces do not

require a plinth or any other base or foundation work other than a concrete pad onto which they would be fastened.

Mr. Martineau asked how the longevity of the sculpture would relate to the City's investment in public art, asking if there are other potential locations that might extend the life of the work. Mr. Carden confirmed that the elements will have a negative impact on the sculpture over time. He estimated that most public art will last approximately 10 years before major conservation investments become necessary.

Ms. Marks observed that the piece is brightly colored and likely to fade under the sun. Mr. Carden advised that sealant will be used on the sculpture. The Board discussed the use of sealant to maintain the proposed artwork. It was also noted that the piece is unlikely to fade evenly.

Mr. Carden suggested that the Board could make a motion recommending the piece with a condition that it be maintained. He pointed out that 10% of the Laird estate's donation, or \$500,000, is intended to cover the maintenance of artwork. This cost could vary depending upon whether it can be maintained on-site or must be temporarily removed.

Ms. Marks noted that in six to eight years, the sculpture could have degraded significantly, which she felt would be a reflection on the City rather than on the artists. Mr. Carden added that if the piece is greatly damaged or faded, it could be removed from the collection, as its cost is relatively low. Chair Glass commented that the piece would also be a vibrant addition to the City.

Motion made by Ms. Vegas, seconded by Ms. Marks, that we accept this piece on the condition that it is maintained yearly to prevent fading. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

Mr. Martineau stated that he had attended a recent meeting of the Florida Redevelopment Association at which public art was discussed. He recalled that many cities who receive artwork evaluate its condition regularly to determine depreciation. He suggested that once Fort Lauderdale begins to accumulate public art, the value of the pieces may be used to show the credibility of the program.

Mr. Carden advised that the value of pieces does not typically change on an annual basis, and that evaluation every five years might be more appropriate, as the appraisal of an entire collection can be costly and time-consuming. He added that appraisal is required in order to insure artwork.

- **R&R Studios, FTL, Relocation**

Mr. Carden reported that he has met with R&R Studios, which will create the *FTL* sculpture. The artist has expressed reservations regarding placement of the piece in

Tunnel Top Park. Mr. Carden advised that he shared this concern due to the engineering required to install the work.

Mr. Carden continued that he has spoken with both the Laird estate and the Mayor's Office regarding a new site at A1A and Las Olas Boulevard. This is proposed as the new location of the *FTL* piece.

Ms. Vegas reiterated her earlier concern regarding the possibility of fading, which she felt could be worsened by the new location's proximity to the beach. Mr. Carden replied that the artist is working with new paint and sealant, which they feel should remedy the issue.

Because the new proposed location is on an FDOT-owned roadway, the City must still work with FDOT on its installation. In addition, due to the proximity to the beach, they will also need to work with the Florida Department of Environmental Protection (FDEP). This will require additional time. The piece itself has already passed design review by FDOT and will require only engineering review and permission. Samples of paint, sealant, and any other materials will be submitted for environmental review. The Laird estate has approved the prospective change, and the artist prefers the new proposed location to the original site.

Ms. Marks asked if the sculpture will be treated to protect against graffiti. Mr. Carden confirmed that it will have an anti-graffiti coating. Code Enforcement will inform him if any vandalism occurs and the sculpture will be cleaned.

Motion made by Vice Chair Steinkamp, seconded by Mr. Martineau, accepting the recommendation of the artist to relocate the piece to A1A and Las Olas. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

5. Prospect Lake Clean Water Center

Mr. Carden stated that the Prospect Lake Clean Water Center will be the City's new water treatment plant. After significant discussion, the City Attorney has determined that this facility should contribute to the City's public art fund. The Ordinance stipulates that the contribution is limited to a percentage of the project's hard costs only, which include construction of the building. The fund will receive 2% of those costs.

Mr. Martineau requested clarification of the methodology by which the Board can ensure this contribution is placed in the fund. Mr. Carden replied that this will require a budget transfer from the project to the public art account. He will keep the Board apprised of progress.

Vice Chair Steinkamp requested an update on the lifeguard stands for which a call to artists has been prepared. Mr. Carden replied that the call is ready to be published once

an agreement has been signed between the Café platform and the City Attorney's Office.

6. Florida House BILL # CS/CS/HB 383 Public Construction

Mr. Carden advised that House Bill (HB) 383 was brought to his attention in May due to its potential impact on the City. This bill addresses several aspects of public construction, including how cities can pay contractors and construction companies for work, the rights of all parties involved, and what cities can require of the companies in order to obtain building permits as well as payment. It also prohibits cities from requiring public art for private construction projects.

Mr. Carden advised that the City had sent a formal letter to its state representatives, but the bill passed and was signed into law by the Governor on May 25, 2023. The bill applies to private development only. He noted that there is additional discussion of the bill at FAPAP.org, which is a ListServ for public art professionals, for further clarity on this issue.

7. New Business / Board Comments

Mr. Carden stated that he is working with the City's Public Works Department, which has requested Board input on a mural or artistic screening that can be placed on the outside of a new pump station building. Chair Glass stated that she has received a proposal with ideas on this work from an artist who was present at a Board meeting some months ago.

Mr. Martineau asked if it is permissible for the Board to receive an artist's submission in this manner. It was clarified that this item would need to be placed on a future Agenda.

Ms. Marks addressed the March 20, 2023 minutes, noting that Mr. Carden had advised the Board that the Public Art Ordinance exempted Public Works and infrastructure projects from providing the 2% contribution toward public art. In addition, because the City did not previously have a Cultural Affairs Officer on staff, the budget office had not allocated the 2% from previous projects. She asked if this could be addressed retroactively to December 7, 2020, which was the time the Board was first seated.

Mr. Carden replied that the Board may make a communication to the City Commission on this issue if they wish; however, he cautioned that the City has already spent those dollars.

Mr. Carden also reported that a groundbreaking ceremony has been scheduled for a new sewer pump station at Peter Feldman Park in Flagler Village. It will be held at 4:15 p.m. on Wednesday, June 21, 2023. The Public Works Department is willing to finance the public art project for this pump station.

Ms. Marks requested an update on the status of the Public Art Ordinance. Mr. Carden replied that this is currently at the City Attorney's Office for review. A City Commissioner will need to place this Item on the City Commission Agenda once it has been approved by the City Attorney's Office.

8. Communications to the Commission

Mr. Carden requested that the Board send their recommendations on the three Laird estate donations as a formal communication to the City Commission.

Motion made, seconded by Vice Chair Steinkamp, to formally communicate our approval of the Laird estate donations at the next Commission meeting. In a voice vote, the **motion** passed unanimously.

9. Adjournment

It was noted that future Board meetings will be held at the current location at the Fort Lauderdale Executive Airport.

There being no further business to come before the Board at this time, the meeting was adjourned at 2:34 p.m.

Any written public comments made 48 hours prior to the meeting regarding items discussed during the proceedings have been attached hereto.

[Minutes prepared by K. McGuire, Prototype, Inc.]