

1st DRAFT
CITY OF FORT LAUDERDALE
2025 WALK OF FAME SELECTION COMMITTEE
WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 28, 2026, 1:00 PM TO 3:00 PM
101 NE 3 Ave., Fort Lauderdale, FL 33301

Committee Members Present

Lillian Small
George Platt
Gale Butler, Chair
Genia Ellis
Ina Lee
Patrick Shavloske

Absent

Dr. George Hanbury

Staff Present

Joshua Carden, Public Art & Cultural Affairs Officer
Todd Stilphen, Community Program Manager

I. Welcome and Introductions

Committee members introduced themselves.

II. Call Meeting to Order

Chair Butler called the meeting to order at 1:00 PM.

III. Approval of the January 29, 2025 Minutes

Motion was made to approve the January 29, 2025, minutes. In a voice vote, the motion passed unanimously.

V. Presentation of 2026 Walk of Fame Nominations

Mr. Carden described the process for nominations and presentations. He invited presenters to speak for two to three minutes.

- Gregg Wallick presented on behalf of Dr. Bill Kent, emphasizing his converting his company to an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP) and charging the new entity 50% of the valuation to benefit employees. Mr. Wallick acknowledged Dr. Kent's efforts on behalf of the Swimming Hall of Fame, including contributing funding to maintain it in the City. Dr. Kent had also helped pass legislation in several states ensuring that every child in public school was eligible for subsidized swimming lessons to help reduce child drownings. Mr. Wallick said the Bill Kent Foundation provided donations to many causes.

- Stephanie Bostic nominated Pastor Dr. Derrick J. Hughes, citing his leadership as senior pastor of the Piney Grove First Baptist Church in Lauderdale Lakes for 12 years. Under his guidance, she said 3,200 souls had been led to Christ, changing lives and the community. He had also founded the Boys Academy at the church, which instilled discipline in and mentored young men. Boys were given guidance, structure and positive role models that impacted their lives. Pastor Hughes and his wife had also fostered four young siblings, whom they later adopted.
- Tim McGovern and Paul Sallarulo presented Jack Seiler's nomination, noting he had the initial idea for the City to host an annual St. Patrick's Day parade. Mr. McGovern stated Mr. Seiler had been a volunteer coach at Holiday Park for over 10 years. He had paid to put over 100 kids through college and participated in toy drives and disaster response and treated everyone with respect. Mr. Sallarulo said Mr. Seiler was in the Knights of Columbus of Fort Lauderdale and was a former Mayor of Fort Lauderdale. For Special Olympics, Mr. Sallarulo noted Mr. Seiler served on the board and had helped increase the number of Broward County athletes from 300 to almost 10,000.
- Angela Posillico presented the nomination for herself, describing her involvement as CEO of the Miss International World Pageant, which empowered women and provided the key to success for many women all over the world. She had been given the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award for her work with the pageant. Ms. Posillico said their organization also provided scholarships in the amount of \$40,000 per person. They had brought the pageant back to Fort Lauderdale last year and the City Commission had published a proclamation naming August 28 Miss International World Day.
- Ed Hashek and Kirk Englehart presented an endorsement of Linda Carter, remarking on the impact she had on the City that would continue for generations. Mr. Englehart stated Ms. Carter's Community Foundation put more than \$20 million into the community every year. Mr. Hashek said Community Foundation had been a major force to enhance philanthropic giving in Fort Lauderdale and Broward County. When Ms. Carter became CEO in 1997, the foundation had \$20 million in assets and when she left in 2020, it had \$220 million. She had also led programs for foster care reform and provided care for youths aging out of foster care. She had also led the "School is Cool" program that helped increase graduation rates from 77% to 86%. Ms. Carter had also initiated Broward Cares for disaster recovery. Mr. Hashek said currently, Ms. Carter was Vice Chair of the Florida House on Capitol Hill, Chair of the philanthropy committee at Holy Cross Health and had received a lifetime achievement award from the Association of Fundraising Professionals.

- Russ Ritter presented the nomination for Stacy Ritter, stating that as head of Visit Lauderdale, she had transformed Fort Lauderdale as a destination. (Mr. Ritter was forced to leave the Zoom meeting because he was on a plane.)

VI. 2025 Walk of Fame Selections

Following the presentations, the Committee engaged in a discussion of each nominee's merits and contributions.

Ms. Ellis recommended Jack Seiler, seconded by Ms. Lee. Ms. Lee recommended Linda Carter, seconded by Mr. Shavloske. Ms. Lee recommended Stacy Ritter, seconded by Ms. Ellis. Mr. Shavloske recommended Dr. Bill Kent, seconded by Ms. Butler.

A **motion** was made by Ms. Lee, seconded by Mr. Platt, to select the four nominations above. In a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

IV. Selection of Chair for 2027

A **motion** was made by Ms. Lee, seconded by Ms. Ellis, to elect George Platt Chair for 2027. In a voice vote, the motion was unanimously approved.

VII. Other Matters of Interest or Concern

None

VIII. Adjourn

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 1:54 PM.

[Minutes prepared by J. Opperlee, Prototype, Inc.]