



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

#26-0434

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

FROM: Rickelle Williams, City Manager

DATE: June 2, 2026

TITLE: Motion Approving the Implementation of the Local Legends' Legacies
Public Art Project at Lincoln Park and the Inaugural Group of Honorees -
(Commission District 3)

Recommendation

Staff recommends the City Commission approve the implementation of the Local Legends' Legacies public art project at Lincoln Park, located at 600 NW 19 Avenue within the Historic Sistrunk community and the inaugural group of honorees.

Background

The Local Legends' Legacies public art project is intended to honor individuals whose contributions have had a lasting and meaningful impact on the Historic Sistrunk community. The public art project establishes a permanent and expandable recognition program that reflects the area's history, resilience, and cultural legacy. The project includes the installation of bronze paver plaques within Lincoln Park, each commemorating a community member whose contributions have significantly shaped the neighborhood's social, cultural, and civic fabric. The project is designed to allow for the addition of future honorees. Lincoln Park, located at 600 NW 19 Avenue, is a 2.62-acre park that includes a basketball court, pavilion, picnic tables, a children's playground, and a walking path. Ample open space exists within the park to accommodate the Local Legends' Legacies public art project. Funding for the public art project was initially requested through a Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 decision package which was tabled in lieu of allocating Northwest Progresso Flagler Heights Community Redevelopment Area funds. It is now proposed that the \$35,000 cost of installation be paid with funds available in the Cultural Affairs Division's operating budget.

The Local Legends' Legacies public art project also includes the planting of a Rainbow Eucalyptus tree as a living element of the public art installation. The Rainbow Eucalyptus is known for its distinctive, multicolored bark, which naturally sheds in layers to reveal vibrant hues of green, blue, orange, and maroon. The tree's distinctive multicolored bark and natural renewal process serve as a symbolic representation of the community's uniqueness, growth, and resilience.

The inaugural group of individuals to be recognized, listed in Exhibit 1, represents contributions across public health, education, civil advocacy, and community enterprise:

- Walter ‘Mickey’ Hinton – Environmental justice advocate who brought attention to community impacts and inspired collective action.
- Louis D. Benton Sr. – Owner of Benton Funeral Home, the only Black-owned funeral home in Broward County during segregation, and a pillar of community service and entrepreneurship.
- Dr. William Alexander Morris – Physician who provided long-standing healthcare access to underserved residents along Sistrunk Boulevard.
- Ellyn Ferguson Walters – Educator and civic leader whose career in Broward County Public Schools and leadership in support of the African-American Research Library and Cultural Center strengthened the community’s educational and cultural foundation.

The Public Art and Placemaking Advisory Board (PAPAB) approved the public art project including the above individuals at their April 20, 2026, meeting. The draft meeting minutes with the PAPAB’s approval is attached as Exhibit 2. The draft minutes reference the project as “Unsung Heroes at Little Lincoln Park”. PAPAB Vice Chair Martha Steinkamp partnered with Social Studies Department Head Sean Dolen to have students from Dillard High School research the honorees. As a result of the PAPAB’s engagement with the students, they proposed renaming the project to “Local Legends’ Legacies” which gained support as the project name aligns with the intention of honoring local legends.

The Local Legends’ Legacies public art project supports the City’s commitment to community-based placemaking and the recognition of historically underrepresented communities by embedding community narratives into a public space and strengthening neighborhood identity. Following the initial installation of the art project’s first four (4) recognized individuals, additional community engagement will be conducted to add to those recognized through the public art project.

Upon approval, City staff will proceed with final design coordination, fabrication of the bronze paver plaques, and installation of the Rainbow Eucalyptus tree at Lincoln Park.

Resource Impact

Funding in the amount of \$35,000 in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 is available in the Cultural Affairs budget within the listed account.

Funds available as of May 5, 2026					
ACCOUNT NUMBER	COST CENTER NAME (Program)	CHARACTER/ACCOUNT NAME	AMENDED BUDGET (Character)	AVAILABLE BALANCE (Character)	AMOUNT

10-001-3250-579-40-4299	Cultural Affairs	Other Operating Expenses/Other Contributions	\$129,473	\$115,163	\$35,000
				TOTAL AMOUNT ►	\$35,000

Strategic Connections

This item is a *2026 Top Commission Priority*, advancing Public Spaces and Cultural initiatives.

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.

Attachments

Exhibit 1 – Local Legends’ Legacies Honorees

Exhibit 2 – April 20, 2026, PAPAB Draft Meeting Minutes

Prepared by: Joshua Carden, Cultural Affairs Officer, Community Services Department

Department Director: Porshia L. Garcia, Community Services Department