

# MIAMI BEACH

## COMMISSION MEMORANDUM

TO: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Commission  
FROM: Jimmy L. Morales, City Manager  
DATE: July 26, 2017

SUBJECT: REFERRAL TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD/COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
THE PROPOSED ART IN PUBLIC PLACES PROJECT FOR PLACEMENT AT  
SOUNDSCAPE PARK.

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### **RECOMMENDATION**

Refer the proposed SoundScape public art commission by artist Bill Fontana to the Neighborhood/Community Affairs Committee for consideration and recommendation.

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### **ANALYSIS**

The Art in Public Places Ordinance (No. 95-2985) was adopted in 1995 and was created to "enhance the aesthetic environment of the City of Miami Beach by including works of art on public property within the City and in City construction projects." The Art in Public Places program is funded by 1 ½ % of all "hard costs" of City capital construction projects, including new construction, additions, and costs for construction of joint private/public projects. As provided in Sec. 82-562 "Powers and Duties" of the Art in Public Places Committee, the Art in Public Places Committee shall recommend to the City Commission whether a particular proposed city construction project is an appropriate site for works of art and whether all or a part of the appropriation required by section 82-587 should be utilized at the site or, reduced or waived in its entirety or, placed, whether in its entirety or a portion thereof, in the art in public places fund for other acceptable uses.

The city commission shall also consider whether the funding source for a particular city construction project is restricted by public bond covenants; federal, state or local laws; and/or legal parameters which would require that the appropriation be utilized on the particular city construction project site, including projects funded by Miami-Dade County General Obligation Bonds, such as the Flamingo and Lummus Park projects. These restrictions also include projects falling within the Miami Beach City Center Redevelopment Agency, which encompasses the area bounded by 24th Street on the North, West Avenue on the West, 14th Lane on the South and the Atlantic Ocean on the East. As such, public art funds generated from capital projects located within the Miami Beach City Center Redevelopment Agency, such as SoundScape Park, are required to be located within the designated Redevelopment Agency boundaries.

The City of Miami Beach Art in Public Places Committee has recommended Soundscape Park as an appropriate site for public art and all of the appropriation required by section 82-587 was recommended to be utilized at the site. The Mayor and City Commission approved the site location and Art in Public Places allocation through Resolution 2009-7156. As well, the Soundscape Park Art in Public Places project was included as part of the FY 2015-16 Final Capital Budget through

Resolution 2015-29144.

After establishing the scope of the project, the Art in Public Places Committee, in consultation with New World Symphony staff, recommended forty (40) internationally noted sound artists for consideration. After thoughtful discussion and review of the artists' previously completed works, on July 19, 2016, five (5) of these artists were selected by the Art in Public Places Committee to develop site specific audio installation proposals which may include video. The artists are noted as follows:

**Bill Fontana** (San Francisco)  
**Jenny C. Jones** (Brooklyn)  
**Gustavo Matamoros** (Miami)  
**Susan Philipsz** (Berlin)  
**Stephen Vitiello** (Richmond, VA)

On January 20-21, 2017, these five artists joined Art in Public Places and New World Symphony staff for a project orientation meeting, which included an overview of the facility, tour of the audio/visual technologies, and a New World Symphony WALLCAST concert. Artists presented their proposals to the Art in Public Places Committee and New World Symphony staff on Tuesday, May 16, 2017 in the acoustically equipped New World Symphony SunTrust Pavilion. Following discussion of all five proposals, the Art in Public Places Committee recommended San Francisco based artist Bill Fontana to implement his proposal, entitled *Sonic Dreamscapes*. The proposed project will utilize the 72 channel speaker system and projection wall in Soundscape Park, activating the space with a hybrid sound and video projection artwork designed to run through the course of a day and evening in Soundscape Park. The estimated artist approval process and project schedule is noted as follows:

#### **Estimated Project Schedule**

Commission Meeting- Referral NCAC

July 26, 2017

Design Review Board

October 3, 2017

Neighborhoods and Community Affairs Committee

November 17, 2017

Approval City of Miami Beach Commission

December 13, 2017

Commissioned Artists Contract Approval Phase

January 2018

Approval of Artist Contract

January 2018

Selected Artists Begin Full Design Development

February 2018

Project Completion (TBD based on selected proposal)

Fall 2018

As referenced in Resolution No. 2009-7156, funding for this project was generated from 1.5% of construction costs of the New World Symphony Parking Garage and Park Project, which totaled \$352,155. As with all Art in Public Places commissions, 15% of the project cost is allocated for project management (\$52,823), 15% of the project cost is allocated for future maintenance of the work (\$52,823) and the remaining 70% is allocated for the commissioning of the public art project (\$246,509).

#### **CONCLUSION**

The Administration recommends that the Mayor and City Commission refer the proposed SoundScape public art commission by artist Bill Fontana to the Neighborhood/Community Affairs

Committee for consideration and recommendation.

**Legislative Tracking**

Tourism, Culture and Economic Development

**Sponsor**

Commissioner Joy Malakoff