

RESOLUTION NO. _____

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, ACCEPTING THE RECOMMENDATION OF THE ART IN PUBLIC PLACES COMMITTEE AND THE CULTURAL ARTS COUNCIL TO PURCHASE THE *STARCHILD* SCULPTURE FROM FWY STUDIOS, INC., IN A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT-TO-EXCEED \$170,000.00, WITH THE INTENT THAT THE WORK WILL REMAIN PERMANENTLY INSTALLED AT ITS CURRENT LOCATION AT HENRY LIEBMAN SQUARE (WEST 41ST STREET AND PINE TREE DRIVE); AND FURTHER DIRECTING THE PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT TO TAKE THE STEPS NECESSARY TO REMOVE AND RELOCATE THE 5G UTILITY POLE LOCATED IN THE VICINITY OF “STARCHILD” SCULPTURE (IF POSSIBLE), SO AS TO NOT OBSTRUCT THE VIEWS OF THE SCULPTURE.

WHEREAS, FriendsWithYou, an art collaboration of Samuel Borkson and Arturo Sandoval III, produced *StarChild* (2022), the “Sculpture”) as a temporary public art installation for Miami Beach OnStage! arts and culture program; and

WHEREAS, *Starchild* is a 50-foot tall bright orange metal sculpture depicting the main character in FriendsWithYou’s newest body of work, a longform conceptual project in which the artists are renaming the Earth to “Ocean” as a means to unify the planet; and

WHEREAS, the City installed the Sculpture at Henry Liebman Square, 41st Street and Pine Drive, where it has since remained; and

WHEREAS, following discussion by the Art in Public Places Committee and Cultural Affairs Council (the “Committees”), the Committees recommended that the City acquire the Sculpture as part of the City of Miami Beach Art in Public Places Collection in a not-to-exceed amount of \$170,000; and

WHEREAS, there is \$170,000 available in the City of Miami Beach Cultural Arts Council fund to finance the purchase of *StarChild*; and

WHEREAS, furthermore, there is a 5G utility pole in the vicinity of the Sculpture, which poses an aesthetic threat to the artwork and may obstruct view of the Sculpture from certain viewpoints; and

WHEREAS, if technically feasible, the 5G utility pole should be relocated to a nearby location that will not compromise the public’s ability to view the artwork; and

WHEREAS, initial estimates from the City’s Public Works department suggest that removing and relocating the 5G utility pole is a 6-9 month-long project, that will cost between \$50,000-\$60,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MAYOR AND CITY COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF MIAMI BEACH, FLORIDA, that the Mayor and City Commission hereby accept the recommendation of the Art in Public Places Committee and the Cultural Arts Council to purchase the "StarChild" sculpture from FWY Studios, Inc., in a total amount not-to-exceed \$170,000.00, with the intent that the work will remain permanently installed at its current location at Henry Liebman Square (West 41st Street and Pine Tree Drive); and further, direct the Public Works Department to take the steps necessary to remove and relocate the 5G utility pole located in the vicinity of "Star Child" sculpture (if possible), so as to not obstruct the views of the sculpture.

PASSED AND ADOPTED this _____ day of _____ 2023.

ATTEST:

Dan Gelber, Mayor

Rafael E. Granado, City Clerk

(Sponsored by Commissioner Alex J. Fernandez)

APPROVED AS TO
FORM & LANGUAGE
& FOR EXECUTION



City Attorney

2-12-23

Date