



CITY OF DELRAY BEACH

100 NW 1st Avenue
Delray Beach, FL 33444

ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES PUBLIC ART ADVISORY BOARD **DRAFT**

Tuesday, December 16, 2025

5:00 p.m.

City Hall, 1st Floor Conference Room

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Samuel Spear, Chair, at 5:02 pm.

2. **ROLL CALL:**

Present:

Lark Keeler, Second Vice Chair
Samuel Spear Jr., Chair
Michelle Kaplan
Montre Bennett, Vice Chair

Absent:

Andrea Sherman
Bob Costello
Daniel Cianciotto

Staff Present:

William Bennett, Assistant City Attorney
Rob Evans, Economic Development Manager, Board Liaison
Jeane St. Luce, Executive Assistant

Roll was called and quorum was present.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

A Motion was made by Montre Bennett, seconded by Lark Keeler to approve the agenda. All in favor, no opposed. Motion **PASSED** unanimously (4-0).

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

A Motion was made by Montre Bennett, seconded by Michelle Kaplan to approve November 25, 2025 Minutes. All in favor, no opposed. Motion **PASSED** unanimously (4-0).

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

6. OLD BUSINESS:**A. Downtown Development Authority (DDA) Art Update – Marusca Gatto**

Ms. Gatto was unable to attend but Ms. Lambie attended the meeting on her behalf. Ms. Lambie provided a detailed handout on the current art projects and elaborated on the projects. She advised there would be a new website the following week. Additionally, she discussed the new Art On The Square show.

Discussion ensued on the board having a table at the Art On The Square show with someone from the Board providing information and a suggestion box. Ms. Lambie will provide information. William Bennett, Assistant City Attorney, stated that only one person at a time from the Board should sit at the table.

B. Utility Box Wrapping Update

Mr. Evans recapped on what had previously transpired. Since FDOT has halted the wrapping of the utility box program owned by FDOT, he provided a handout with pictures of possible city/county owned utility boxes and addresses that he has identified. He explained Public Works would have to verify who owns the boxes and if the boxes meet the requirements for wrapping. He stated once the utility boxes have been identified and approved for wrapping, the Commission will have to approve the new utility boxes and locations.

Ms. Keeler, Second Vice Chair, requested an update on the previously discussed Canadian company who prints wraps. Mr. Evans stated he is still investigating.

Mr. Spear, Chair, stated he thought the project was further along and questioned if this information was the most up to date. Mr. Bennett, Vice Chair, stated it is his understanding that FDOT has put a hold on the three previous approved utility boxes. The city has already approved three utility boxes, but the Board should identify three new boxes. Ms. Keeler, Second Vice Chair, asked if an amount had been approved. Mr. Bennett, Vice Chair, commented he believes it was three utility boxes at \$3500 for each box.

Ms. Keeler, Second Vice Chair, discussed a historic memorandum from 2021 regarding the wrapping of utility boxes with a suggested amount of \$750 to \$800 per box.

Mr. Spear, Chair, stated in the handout that Mr. Evans provided there are more than three utility boxes listed. Mr. Evans stated potentially all the utility boxes listed could be city owned. Public Works will confirm who owns the boxes and if the utility boxes can be wrapped.

Mr. Bennett, Vice Chair, read information from the agenda of January 2025, which stated the costs and utility boxes identified. Mr. Evans stated most of the utility boxes previously identified required FDOT approval and that is not possible at this time.

Mr. Evans stated by the next meeting the list of potential utility boxes will be vetted by Public Works and hopefully he will be able to present three that can move forward.

Mr. Bennett, Vice Chair, discussed prioritizing the boxes.

Mr. Spear, Chair, asked Mr. Evans by the next meeting to have the utility boxes vetted and advise which ones can be wrapped. Additionally, what is the procedure to get the boxes approved.

Mr. Spear, Chair, asked Ms. Keeler, Second Vice Chair, if she could provide a draft on the call to artist requirements. Ms. Keeler, Second Vice Chair, provided him with a rubric for scoring.

Discussion ensued on specifications for the wrapping.

Mr. Spear, Chair, questioned the parameters and/or restrictions of the art. Discussion ensued on the theme.

Mr. Spear, Chair, commented that Mr. Evans stated Boynton Beach has a printing company and asked if the Board will require more than one quote. Mr. Evans will investigate and the city may already have an approved vendor.

Discussion ensued on what platform may be used for the call to artist.

Discussion ensued on going to the Commission for the approval of the utility boxes and funding.

William Bennett, Assistant City Attorney, clarified at a Commission meeting there was a presentation, not an action item. According to the minutes there was a consensus by the Commission to proceed. Since the funding is \$14,000, it is in the City Manager's authority to approve said amount. According to code, the City Manager can approve up to \$65,000. The Board will need to request approval by the Commission because the utility boxes are city owned property / land.

Discussion ensued on the call to artist. William Bennet, Assistant City Attorney, stated the call to artist is a solicitation and may be an administrative function of the city.

C. Heritage Art Project Update

Mr. Evans stated he reached out to Michiko Kurisu for a status update. Per previous conversations, she had issues with the stamp mold. At this time, the Board needs to know if the manufacturer resolved the issue with the stamp mold so she can order the rest of the stamps.

Mr. Bennett, Vice Chair, asked Mr. Evans to reach out to Public Works to check to see if they were using the stamp as there was a new sidewalk and it did not have a stamp.

Discussion ensued regarding the project.

7. NEW BUSINESS:**A. Public Art Trust Fund**

Mr. Evans stated the fund has approximately \$50,000 but has allocated approximately \$7500 to the Heritage Art project and \$14,000 to the Utility Box Wrapping project.

Ms. Keeler, Second Vice Chair, stated she thought she found the ordinance and read the Delray Beach City Commission adopted a public art ordinance establishing the public art advisory program and setting aside 1.5% of Delray Beach capital construction projects over \$200,000 for public art. She commented if there were any capital project over \$200,000 in Delray Beach, the capital project should give the Board 1.5%; therefore, what happened to the money from the fire station. Mr. Evans stated the project did not qualify. Discussion ensued.

Mr. Evans stated approximately \$29,000 is available and could be used towards projects. All projects will have to be approved by the Commission.

Ms. Keeler, Second Vice Chair, discussed some of the specific projects previously put forth when she was on the board were: to complete a master public art strategic plan with the assistance from a temporary project manager with an approximate cost of \$40,000; to conduct a full inventory of the public art in Delray Beach in partnership with the PAAB and other city partners; request the city to install a physical wave finding and create an online digital map in partnership with the DDA; to perform a comprehensive assessment of the condition of all existing city owned art with the assistance of a temporary project manager for a cost of \$100/hour for those consultant services; and restore city owned art with the assistance of the temporary project manager. She further stated to be mindful that whatever project the Board does, the Board will need to continue to manage.

Discussion ensued regarding a consultant.

Ms. Keeler, Second Vice Chair, asked if other sources are feeding money the Public Art Board's account. Mr. Evans will investigate.

Ms. Keeler, Second Vice Chair, asked if new construction sites such as the Sundy House Village are meant to reserve a certain space or element of their construction design for public art space. Discussion ensued. Mr. Evans will investigate.

Mr. Bennett, Assistant City Attorney, stated he is unaware of any land development regulations that require public art space. If there is a mural, this board would approve the mural.

Ms. Keeler, Second Vice Chair, asked if it is in this board authority to reach out to the Sundy House Village or other places to invite them to a meeting. Mr. Bennett, Deputy City Attorney, stated he does not know of any reason why a board member could not reach out to the Sundy House Village to invite them to attend a board meeting. Discussion ensued on reaching out to the Sundy House Village to invite them to a meeting to open discussions regarding encouraging more public art.

Mr. Bennett, Vice Chair, asked if the board is able to apply for A-Guide funds from the CRA for the art trust fund. Mr. Bennett, Deputy City Attorney, stated it would be the city not the board but did not have the answer. Mr. Evans will investigate.

8. **COMMENTS:**

A. Comments by Staff

Mr. Evans explained the February 24, 2026, meeting has to be moved or canceled as there is a Commission meeting on said date. He gave options of February 17, 2026, or February 25, 2026. There was a consensus to move the meeting to February 25, 2026 at 5:00 pm if possible.

B. Comments By Board Members

A Motion was made by Montre Bennett to reopen Public Comments, seconded by Lark Keeler. All in favor, no opposed. Motion **PASSED** unanimously **(4-0)**.

5. **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jaunice Hill, Community of Carver Park, stated her community is adjacent to I95 and the I95 wall. She stated the wall is deplorable. Mr. Spear, Chair, asked Ms. Hill where her community is in relation to the I95 sound wall with artwork. Ms. Hill stated it is south of her community.

8. **COMMENTS:**

B. Comments By Board Members

Mr. Bennett, Vice Chair, stated regarding the Sound Wall Project, there was discussion about how to paint all the sound walls. All the sound walls on the south side need to be addressed.

Mr. Bennett, Vice Chair, stated a resident, Patricia White, from the Frog Alley Committee texted him regarding the frog artwork in Frog Alley. Ms. White would like a statue of a real frog and a plaque with the name of the 252 families.

Ms. Keeler, Second Vice Chair, provided information for historical reference regarding the sound walls. She stated phase one was \$25,000 for one wall.

Ms. Keeler, Second Vice, Chair, provided the board with an Art Advisory Board Strategic Vision that was drafted in 2020 with Jason King. The Vision emphasized some goals to accomplish and were built in four sections: restoration and preservation, community connections, honoring historic heritage and esthetic advancement.

9. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:13 pm.

Board Liaison

Date

Board Chair

Date