

PROPOSED MONUMENTAL ARTWORK: FRANK STELLA



Image courtesy of the Estate of Frank Stella

Note: The oculus form surrounding the sculpture is included, although not required for installation

Specifications:

Frank Stella, *Puffed and Inverted Net Star II*, 2017

Aluminum

214 7/8 in x 214 7/8 in x 214 7/8 in

(17+ feet in height and width)

Weight: approximately 5,500 lbs

Background:

On March 28, 2023, the City Commission approved Resolution 2023-60 requesting a proposal for artwork with a budget of \$1.25 million dollars by prominent American artist Frank Stella.

The city received proposals of various artworks by Frank Stella that did not meet the criteria of cost, scale, structure or materials that could be easily maintained.

The artist has since passed away, making his works more relevant, and rare. Frank Stella's estate has confirmed that no new commissions are being accepted, and no new work is being fabricated based on concepts in progress at the time of the artist's death. The estate will be transitioning the artist's remaining works for sale to a private gallery soon.

The estate was advised of the city's interest in acquiring a work by Frank Stella, and submitted a proposal of available pieces. Among the works is *Puffed and Inverted Net Star II* and is being offered to the city for \$2 million dollars. This piece was previously offered to the city for \$2.8 million dollars in 2023.

The City Commission has consistently expressed interest in building the public art collection with significant artworks created by prominent, world-renowned artists, the *Puffed and Inverted Net Star II* would meet this and be a significant addition to the city's public art collection.

Please note a summary and details below.

Artist:

Frank Stella was born in 1936 in Massachusetts and recently passed away in 2024 at the age of 87 years. Since his first solo gallery exhibition at Leo Castelli Gallery in 1960, Stella has exhibited widely throughout the U.S. and abroad. Early in his career, his work was included in several significant exhibitions that defined the art of the postwar era. Stella's work contributed significantly to Minimalism and Abstract Expressionism. From strong geometric, symmetrical compositions, to later abstract colorful forms, he was an advocate of new technology and applied advanced material making into his artworks. Frank Stella's work can be found in public collections all over the world.

Artwork:

Puffed and Inverted Net Star II is within Frank Stella's artworks that explore the star shape and form, evolving from the 2010s until his recent passing. The stand-alone star-shaped emerged as a motif that the artist would frequently return to. Sculptures in the series range in size and finish from solid planes to lines with integrated mesh. Materials in the series are also diverse and include RPT plastics, teak, aluminum, stainless steel, birch plywood, carbon fiber, and more.

Puffed and Inverted Net Star II is fabricated from aluminum with a natural, matte finish that would require little maintenance.

Artwork is a unique piece and not part of a series.

Maintenance:

Due to the nature of the material and the artist's aesthetic, it is recommended that the artwork receives annual surface cleaning with mild soap and water. The condition may be assessed within the first year to see if additional cleaning is required.

Value:

An estimated value of \$4 million dollars was given at the time of the initial proposal in 2023. An appraisal may be initiated on request by the Historical Resources & Cultural Arts department.

Budget:

\$2,000,000	Acquisition & Packing
\$ 40,000	Shipping & Installation
\$ tbd	Engineering and Site Work to follow standard bid process

Insurance: Upon approval, a request will be made to include the piece on the city's list of covered public artworks in the collection.