



Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	19-8287	Version:	1	Name:	Hank Willis Thomas Speech Bubble artworks acquisition
Type:	Resolution	Status:		Status:	Adopted
File created:	1/9/2019	In control:		In control:	City Commission
On agenda:	1/22/2019	Final action:		Final action:	1/22/2019
Enactment date:	1/22/2019	Enactment #:		Enactment #:	2019-21

Title: A Resolution approving the acquisition of twenty-two (22) speech bubble artwork signs from “The truth is I welcome you,” by Hank Willis Thomas and installation on Miracle Mile of the artwork "Ernest and Ruth," by Hank Willis Thomas. (Unanimously recommended by the Cultural Development Board approval/denial vote: 4 to 0).

Sponsors:

Indexes:

Code sections:

Attachments: 1. Signed Resolution 2019-21, 2. Comm Cover 1.22.19 Hank Willis Thomas Acquisition, 3. Hank Willis Thomas 2019 Artwork Acquisition - Res. DRAFT, 4. CDB Minutes January 15 2019 DRAFT - EXCERPT Re. Hank Willis Thomas artwork signs, 5. Hank Willis Thomas _ Coral Gables _ 2018 Info and images, 6. The Truth is I Welcome You_ Sign_ Aquisition_ Proposal rdcd

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result
1/22/2019	1	City Commission		

A Resolution approving the acquisition of twenty-two (22) speech bubble artwork signs from “The truth is I welcome you,” by Hank Willis Thomas and installation on Miracle Mile of the artwork "*Ernest and Ruth*," by Hank Willis Thomas. (Unanimously recommended by the Cultural Development Board approval/denial vote: 4 to 0).

On May 22, 2018, the City Commission approved temporary exhibition of artist Hank Willis Thomas’ series of twenty-two sculptural signs during Art Basel and through Winter of 2019.

The artist’s studio approached the City with a proposal to consider purchase of the artworks following the success of the Art Basel endorsed exhibition.

The series of artworks, as part of the artist’s exhibition in Coral Gables titled “The truth is I welcome you”, consists of twenty-two signs, each containing a line from the poem *the truth is i am you* written by Hank Willis Thomas and Ryan Alexiev and translated into the most spoken languages in Coral Gables.

In consideration of the artist’s distinction and positive response to the artworks; the desire to activate Miracle Mile with exceptional public art; and the positive, interactive nature of the work, the Cultural Development Board was presented with the proposal and unanimously voted to recommend acquiring the twenty-two artworks for an amount of \$200,000 (two hundred thousand dollars). The Board further recommended that the artwork bench *Ernest and Ruth* (currently installed on McBride Plaza) be permanently installed on Miracle Mile.

Funds are being proposed through use of art acquisition funds previously set aside for public art on Miracle Mile. The cost of annual maintenance is being proposed through use of the general fund as ordinary maintenance.

At their meeting on January 15, 2019, the Cultural Development Board voted unanimously (4-0) to recommend acquisition of the twenty-two speech bubble artwork signs currently installed from “The truth is I welcome you”

exhibition and that the artwork *Ernest and Ruth* be permanently installed on Miracle Mile.