



Legislation Text

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A Resolution approving the acquisition of four sculptural benches by artist Hank Willis Thomas. (unanimously recommended by the Cultural Development Board approval/denial vote: 6 to 0; unanimously recommended by the Arts Advisory Panel approval/denial vote: 4 to 0).

On May 22, 2018, the City Commission approved temporary exhibition of artist Hank Willis Thomas' series of four sculptural benches during Art Basel and through Winter of 2019.

The series of benches, as part of the artist's exhibition in Coral Gables titled "The truth is I welcome you", consists of one previously designed bench and three newly designed benches for Coral Gables.

In consideration of the artist's distinction and positive response to the artworks, the studio was approached to submit an acquisition proposal in hopes of acquiring the artworks for the City's permanent public art collection. In response, the artist generously credited funds used for the temporary exhibition, including fabrication costs.

The Arts Advisory Panel and Cultural Development Board were presented with the proposal and unanimously voted to recommend acquiring the four benches for the credited amount plus \$200,000 (two hundred thousand dollars).

Funds are being proposed through use of the art acquisition fund. The cost of annual maintenance is anticipated to be minimal and is being proposed through use of the general fund as ordinary maintenance.

It is understood that locations are to be determined and may include permanent installation at the temporary site locations, within the downtown district, or at other sites.

The Arts Advisory Panel voted unanimously (4-0) to recommend acquisition of the four Hank Willis Thomas sculptural art benches at their meeting on October 24, 2018.

The Cultural Development Board voted unanimously (6-0) to recommend acquisition of the four Hank Willis Thomas sculptural art benches at their meeting on November 6, 2018.