

10/17/2016

To: AIPP Board Members

Since I will be unable to attend the November meeting and I understand that there will be a "Spirited Discussion" regarding the placement of The Tiger, I wish to make my feelings about this issue clear once again.

While many people who graduated from the building, when it was a school, have warm feelings for the Tiger, it was never meant to be a work of fine art but rather a shop project that George Carry did with his students. Though it has been on sight since the mid 1980's, it is by no means as historical as the former school building.

A great deal of money and effort was spent on turning this building into something the entire community can be proud of as our new City Hall. Fine art and sculpture that points both toward the future and the lovely restored WPA murals that speak of our past are to be included in this plan.

My hope is that we can find work that will show that Key West is truly and island of the arts. We have suggested several alternate spots to display this work that would be more appropriate to the architecture of the building; one of which is near the entrance that most people will use facing Varella Street in the butterfly garden.

I have been told that tourist love to take pictures of themselves with the Tiger and are often seen on top of the sculpture which of course raises some very serious issues regarding the city's liability in the event of injury. This is something that needs to be taken into account no matter where it is placed.

In speaking to Commissioner Romero, we feel that somewhere in the new waterfront park might be a more appropriate location for this piece.

George was a very talented artist but I feel placing the Tiger on the front corner of the property, where the flags are now, is not appropriate to the new use of this important building.

John Buzogany AIPP Board Member

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Buzogany". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.