



## THE CITY OF KEY WEST

P.O. BOX 1409  
KEY WEST, FL 33041-1409

July 10, 2025

ART IN PUBLIC PLACES BOARD

### **Call for Proposals Outdoor Sculpture on LOAN for Ramos Lopez Pedestrian Park & Sculpture Garden**

**Application Deadline – August 29, 2025 online by 5:00 pm**

**Apply ONLINE at: [www.keysarts.com](http://www.keysarts.com)**

**Project Name: Sculpture on Loan – Round Three**

**Project Location:** Ramos Lopez Pedestrian Park & Sculpture Garden, 1400 Duval St. Key West

**Project Overview:** The City of Key West Art in Public Places Board requests proposals for the 3rd round of sculptures on loan in the Ramos Lopez Pedestrian & Sculpture Garden that was established in 2019. There are 6 concrete pads measuring 30" square to support local sculpture for the public to enjoy and celebrate our historic and creative community. Located in Old Town Key West, Florida, the park offers undulating planters filled with indigenous plants, shrubs and trees and a magnificent view of the Atlantic Ocean. Art in Public Places is seeking proposals for 6 sculptures to be sited on loan (and may be for sale) in the Park for **24 months**. The selected artists must propose completed work that will complement, enhance and are appropriate for the public space.

**Project Budget: \$1,500 per artist honorarium** – Selected Monroe County resident artists will receive \$1,500 each as an honorarium for the loan of their sculpture. \$1,000 for installation, and \$500. When artwork is de-installed. The AIPP Board may provide transportation and installation assistance to each artist as needed.

#### ***Key West and The Southernmost House Hotel***

##### **PROJECT HISTORY AND SITE DESCRIPTION**

Key West, Florida is the southernmost city in the continental United States with a resident population of approximately 25,000 people and 2.5+ million visitors each year who come to enjoy the natural beauty and marine environment, dining, arts and culture, and history of the area. Built in 1897 as a one-bedroom mansion, the Southernmost House was home to Judge Vinning Harris and his wife Florida Curry, the youngest daughter of Florida's first millionaire, William Curry. At the time of construction Florida Curry wanted the best of the best, therefore Thomas Edison himself installed all the electricity in this home. Upon leaving Mr. Edison left his personal phonograph as a present for the family.

*Key to the Caribbean – Average yearly temperature 77° F.*

During the Prohibition, (1919-1933) the Mansion served as a “Speakeasy.” Many notorious gangsters came through en route to Havana, Cuba. A little-known secret of the home is that the bullet hole in the front window of the reception salon was a shot meant for Al Capone. In 1939, the Ramos family purchased the home and continued to operate it as a nightclub called Café Cayo Hueso, hosting such notables as Ernest Hemingway, Tennessee Williams, Gore Vidal and Truman Capote, as well as celebrities Tallulah Bankhead, Gloria Swanson, Louis Armstrong and Charles Lindberg. The family renovated the mansion to become their personal residence in 1949.

The Ramos family, originally from Spain, was one of Florida’s oldest merchant families because of their ties to the Spanish Royal family. They hosted King Juan Carlos of Spain on several occasions. In fact, the landing pad was added to the oceanfront deck to accommodate his private helicopter. The family also hosted five United States Presidents: Harry S. Truman, Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, Richard M. Nixon and James E. Carter, Jr. The house served as the Ramos-Lopez family residence until 1996 when the mansion was completely renovated to the luxury guest house you see today.

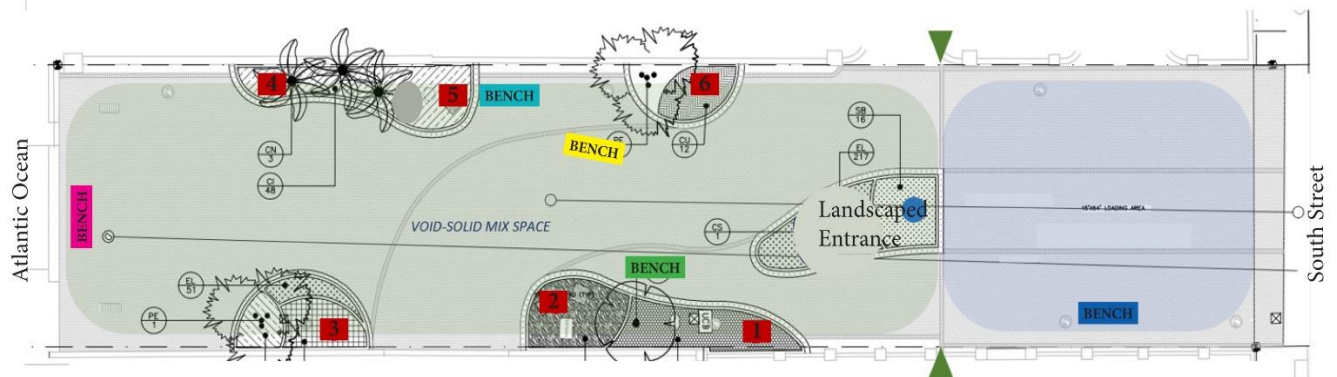


**Ramos Lopez Pedestrian Park & Sculpture Garden**

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## 1400 DUVAL PEDESTRIAN PARK



Sculpture pads are the **RED Numbered** squares. Rectangles are the public art benches.

**Selection and Scoring Criteria:** Proposed sculptures should represent the unique aesthetic and cultural identity of Key West's historic district and need to be in scale with the surroundings. The main considerations are creativity, site appropriateness and durability. Images (photos) and dimensions of finished proposed work are to be submitted online with the application. Sculptures must not have any sharp edges or potential safety hazards. Scoring will follow the guidelines below.

- **Design – 40 points**
  - Artistic merit is the first and most important criteria
  - Give meaning to place by reflecting Key West's history and culture
  - Further the community's sense of spirit and pride
  - Design may **not** advertise a specific business or person
- **Function - 40 points**
  - Meets the criteria listed as to safety, durability and site appropriateness

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- **Eligibility - 20 points**

- Artist or resident is a full-time resident of Monroe County
- Application specifies materials and durability
- Proof of Insurance **IF** artwork is selected

**Eligibility:** Open to all artists or artist teams, residents over the age of 18 residing full-time in Monroe County. Application requires online application including a sketch and proposal detailing finished artwork, 3-5 images of completed work, CV/Resume and brief artist statement.

**Sites and Safety:** While artistic quality is very important, works will be reviewed for durability, safety and appropriateness to the site. Artworks must be structurally sound and able to withstand an outdoor environment in a largely unsupervised area that is not protected from weather or curious viewers. Key West has a subtropical climate that is hot and humid with intense sun and seasonal heavy rains and hurricane-force winds. Avoiding potential problems such as deteriorating rust and fading should be considered.

**Installation Responsibilities:** The City of Key West provides 30"- by- 30" square concrete pads. Sculptures must be firmly secured to the pads. Selected artists will be offered assistance to transport the artwork to the site on the specified date and install it with minimal assistance. It will be the artists' responsibility to remove the artwork after the exhibition.

**Honorarium:** Each artist will be awarded \$1,500 as a fee for the annual loan of his or her artwork and to help offset cost of insurance. No other compensation will be provided. A payment of \$1,000 will be made upon installation and processing of required paperwork and \$500 will be paid upon removal.

**Insurance:** The artist will be required to maintain Physical Loss from Damage Insurance (Property Insurance) on the Sculpture while it is on display. Such coverage should include coverages consistent with the latest version of the Insurance Services Office's (ISO) Special Clauses of Loss form (All Risk) to include perils of Wind and Theft. The limit of the policy will be the value of the Sculpture. The value must be approved by The City of Key West Art in Public Places Board. Due to the artistic nature of the Sculpture coverage shall be on a Scheduled Value Basis.

**APPLY ONLINE:** [www.keysarts.com](http://www.keysarts.com)

**Timeline:**

- ✓ Proposals due: **August 29, 2025, 5:00 pm**
- ✓ Notification of acceptance: **September 19, 2025**
- ✓ City Commission approval and paperwork: **October 2025**
- ✓ Installation time frame: **October 15-30, 2025**
- ✓ Sculpture removal: **October 1 to 15, 2027**

**SELECTION PROCESS**

The 9-member selection committee consists of 7 Art in Public Places Board members, each appointed by a City Commissioner or the Mayor, and 2 stakeholders of the Park appointed by the City Manager. (The Assistant City Manager, and a member of the Engineering Department.) The selection committee will review all artists qualifications and proposals that are complete and submitted by the deadline and score each proposal using the stated guidelines.

**FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:**

Elizabeth S. Young, Executive Director, Florida Keys Council of the Arts  
Public Art Administrator, City of Key West Art in Public Places  
[director@keysarts.com](mailto:director@keysarts.com) 305-295-4369

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