



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To: Gregory Veliz, City Manager

Through: Roy Bishop
Planning Director

From: Enid Torregrosa-Silva, MSHP
Historic Preservation Planner

Meeting Date: October 2, 2019

RE: Approving a mural as permanent artwork on the south side facade at #711 Duval Street, titled Spirit of Stonewall, designed by artist Lisa Marie Thalhammer.

ACTION STATEMENT:

Request: To approve The Spirit of Stonewall mural as permanent artwork, commemorating the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising.

Location: #711 Duval Street

Building Facts: The building located at #711 Duval Street is a non-contributing structure. The commercial building, built circa 1958, is a one-story cbs structure, located on the north corner of Duval Street and Tabby Way. The building is located in the Key West Historic District, listed in the National Register of Historic Places since 1971.

BACKGROUND:

On May 29, 2019, HARC Staff issued Certificate of Appropriateness #2019-0077 for a temporary mural at 711 Duval Street. The mural, entitled The Spirit of Stonewall was possible through a collaboration of the Key West Business Guild and Aqua, for the 2019 Key West Pride celebration. The mural was originally a temporary five-month artwork from 2019 Pride Month up to the end of 2019 Fantasy Fest. After that, the walls were going back to their previous finish. The owners will provide all materials. Due to the positive impact to the community and visitors, the owners of Aqua are requesting to keep the mural as a permanent artwork in their south wall. The applicant has included a maintenance plan for the 11' 6" wide by 12' height mural. The owners from Aqua will provide any required maintenance; they have contacted the artist, Lisa Marie Thalhammer, for further assistance. The applicant states in the application that the reference at the bottom and side of the mural of Key West Business Guild and Aqua will be painted over.

About the author - artist Lisa Marie Studios created The Spirit of Stonewall mural. Lisa Marie Thalhammer is an award winning visual artist, known for an iconic thirteen-color

rainbow Love mural located in Washington DC. Her artistic mission is to create paintings, portraits, and public murals that uplift and empower. As a feminist activist and member of the LGBTQ+ community, her artwork frequently communicates messages of strength and hope. The Spirit of Stonewall design was originally created for *Stoli*, to honor the 50th anniversary of the Stonewall Uprising in New York City, a seminal moment in the modern LGBTQ rights movement. Lisa Marie Studio painted only two exterior murals across the nation to celebrate 2019 Pride Month, this is one of them.

Proposed murals in the historic district may be permitted on non-contributing commercial or public buildings. The mural will not be visible from any residence. The City of Key West Resolution 99-430 requires HARC and City Commission approval for any proposed murals within the historic district.

PREVIOUS CITY ACTIONS:

HARC Staff Approval: Certificate of Appropriateness #2019-0077
May 29, 2019

HARC Staff Approval: Certificate of Appropriateness #2019-0039
August 30, 2019

OPTIONS/ ADVANTAGES/ DISADVANTAGES:

Option 1. Approve the existing mural as permanent artwork on a non-contributing building located at 711 Duval Street.

Consistency with the City’s Strategic Plan, Vision, and Mission: The Strategic Plan is silent on mural paintings in the historic district.

Financial Impact: There will be no cost to the City. The owners of Aqua will be responsible for maintaining the mural.

Option 2. Deny the existing mural as permanent artwork on a non-contributing building located at 711 Duval Street.

Consistency with the City’s Strategic Plan, Vision, and Mission: The Strategic Plan is silent on mural paintings in the historic district.

Financial Impact: There will be no cost to the City. The mural will be painted over.

RECOMMENDATION:

The Planning Department recommends Option 1, **APPROVAL** of the existing mural as permanent artwork, and including the words at the bottom “Presented by Key West Business Guild”.