

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**TO:** Jim Scholl, City Manager

**FROM:** Elizabeth Young, Public Art Administrator, AIPP Board

**CC:** Greg Veliz, Assistant City Manager  
Patrick Wright, Planning Director  
George Wallace, Assistant City Attorney  
Mark Finigan, Finance Director

**DATE:** April 26, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Recommendations from the AIPP BOARD for the Request for Proposals #007-19 DOUGLASS GYM and COMMUNITY CENTER PUBLIC ART to the City Commission

### **ACTION STATEMENT:**

The purpose of this resolution is to request acceptance and approval by the City Commission of the recommended selections of two (2) Public Art proposals by the Art in Public Places Board and 2 non-voting members acting as the Selection Committee. And to authorize the City Manager to negotiate payment terms, to execute an agreement with each artist, (listed below) subject to City Attorney review and approval, not to exceed \$39,400 as per the Percent for Public Art Ordinance. Authorize City Manager to process the necessary budget amendment as outlined in the Financial Impact section.

### **BACKGROUND and RANKING PROCESS:**

The RFP #007-19 was released and formally advertised on February 16, 2019. Due date and time for receipt of proposals was established for April 17, 2019 at 3:00 p.m. The City Clerk received 13 proposals, and 2 proposals were deemed non-responsive. On Wednesday, April 24, 2019 the AIPP Board, 2 non-voting members (appointed by the City Manager as per the AIPP Guidelines) acting as the Selection Ranking Committee, along with City Clerk, Cheri Smith and Elizabeth Young, Public Art Administrator met in a properly noticed public meeting to rank and discuss the 11 proposals. The Clerk and Administrator calculated all Board members scores as per the selection process within the RFP, and then the Board discussed and further evaluated the top ranking 5 proposals for each targeted space as listed in the RFP for the Douglass Gym. The 2 recommended proposals are the highest ranked by the Board members.

### **FINANCIAL IMPACT:**

During the meeting the AIPP BOARD discussed and reviewed the proposed budgets and determined that the recommendations would collectively be slightly more (\$400) than the stated budget. The AIPP Board decided to move forward with the recommendation and to approve using additional funds from the AIPP account as is stated in the ordinance guidelines. Total RFP #007-19 budget was \$39,000, total recommended proposals when approved will total \$39,400. Finance will process a budget amendment in an amount of \$39,400, moving the necessary funds from AIPP reserves to Fund 110/AIPP – Works of Art #110-5902-559.67.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

The AIPP BOARD *voted unanimously* to make the following recommendations to the City Commission for their acceptance and approval for the City Manager to execute and award contracts (agreements attached) to the following 2 artists for their site specific, commissioned, original, permanent Public Art for the City of Key West Douglass Gym and Community Center located at 111 Olivia Street, Key West, Florida.

## **TARGETED SPACE # 1 – Exterior/Interior:**

### **McMow Glass – Lake Worth, Florida - \$25,000**

2 Mosaic Art Glass Vignettes on Exteriors Walls - \$10,000 each, and 1 Interior Art Glass Wall Mural to be applied to existing wall for \$5,000. Includes all aspects of design, fabrication and on-site installation, and all travel, room and board for installation team for up to three days on location. Mosaic glass is unique in medium and technique in that it is especially durable and waterproof. Colored art glass never fades – and is easily cleaned if graffiti is applied due to its slick surface. Glass will not warp when exposed to extreme heat, and does not absorb moisture. This exciting material is stain resistant, easy to clean, never fades and has an extensive lifespan.

See “selected” designs.

For the exterior #1 - TWO COLORFUL, EXPRESSIVE, MOSAIC ART GLASS INSTALLATIONS BY MCMOW GLASS THAT FOCUS ON THE RICH HISTORY AND CULTURAL DIVERSITY OF KEY WEST.

#### **# 1 - Creating Culture**

Douglass considered photography a tool of democracy and an abolitionist’s greatest weapon. Depicted is a 19th century camera as an ode to his respect for the art form. As an orator, Douglass considered language and learning to be crucial to Empowerment. He once said that if you learn to read you will forever be free. This is symbolized by the book featuring his quote juxtaposed floating atop a turbulent sea. It symbolizes the power of knowledge, like a lifeboat in the calamitous waters of society. Dancing, music, and photography are depicted to represent the skill center and its various programs that enable learning and practicing the arts. The flowing waters, colorful houses, and Bahama Village arch and motto pay homage to the landscape, culture, and history of the location of the school.

#### **# 2 - The Beginning**

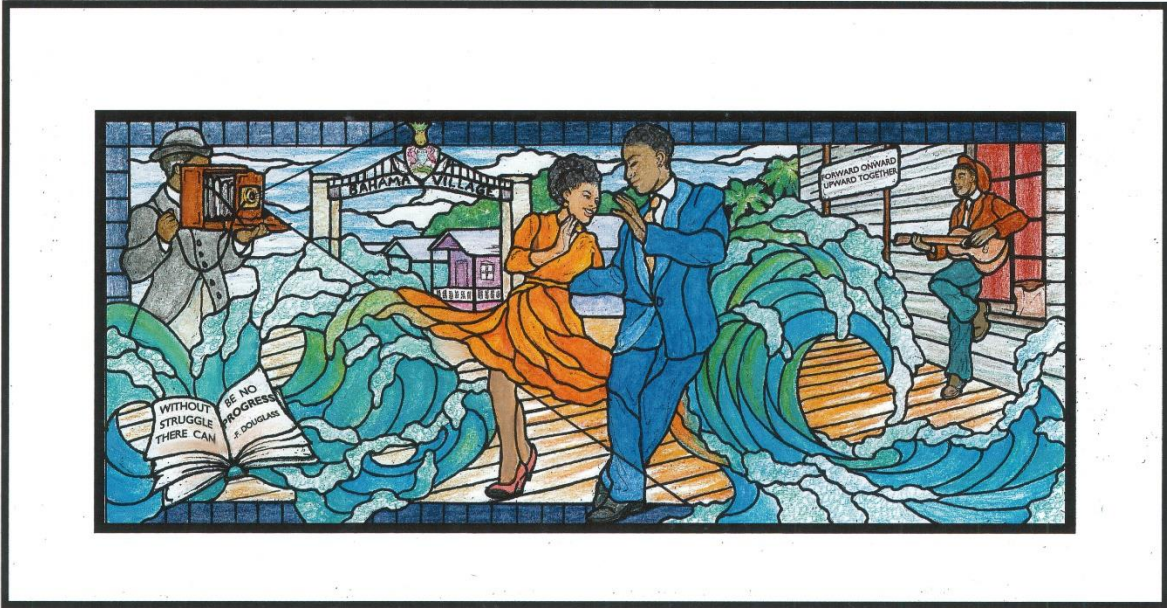
Center stage we have a portrait of Douglass enveloped by the colors of the American flag. This reflects his political accomplishments in our country. The portrait within the ellipse flanked by two palms pays homage to specific Cuban cigar box art depicting Abraham Lincoln. If it weren’t for Douglass convincing Lincoln to let African Americans fight in the Civil War, he may never have signed the Emancipation Proclamation. The left side features a bright North Star. This represents the anti-slavery newspaper he published in 1847 so aptly titled “The North Star.” The name was a reference to the directions given to runaway slaves trying to reach the Northern states and Canada. The right side depicts a train that simultaneously represents the method of transportation Douglass used to escape the clutches of his slave master while also symbolizing Henry Flagler’s Overseas Railway, connecting Key West to mainland Florida in 1912.

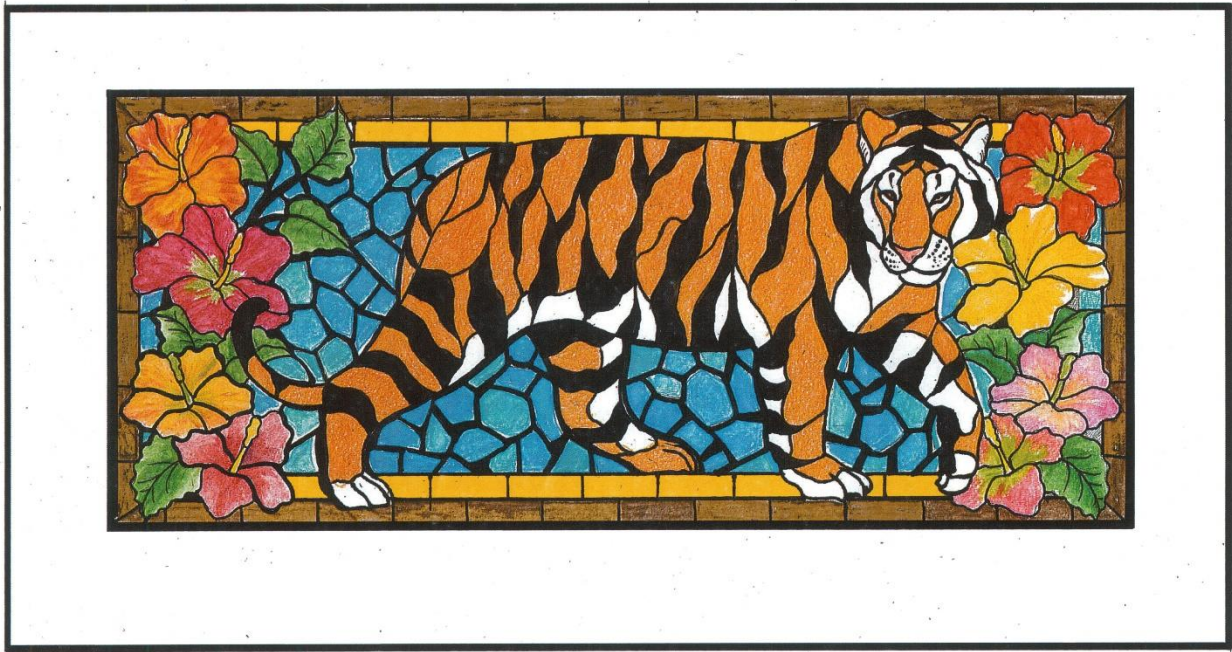
For the interior wall:

#### **The Tiger**

A tiger was the mascot of the original Frederick Douglass High School attended by black students when Monroe County was segregated. It has remained a symbol of integration and equality ever since. “At one point we were all segregated and now we’re integrated. But we didn’t get rid of all of Douglass,” said Phyllis Allen, who grew up in Key West, graduated from Douglass High School and returned to the Monroe County school system as a teacher and administrator. “I get goose bumps just thinking about it — that’s what life’s about, how we grow, how we change, how we can begin to see each other not just as some black kids over here and some white kids over there, but we begin to see these are our kids. That shows growth for this community. That shows the kind of thinking that goes on in this community, that we can live together,” she said. “We can take the tiger from Douglass School and make it the Tiger of Key West.

McMow Glass Designs





**TARGETED SPACE INTERIOR # 4:**  
**Ceiling trusses for banners**

**JH Allen – Key West, Florida - \$14,400**

Artist is commissioned to create 20 panels 2' by 8' painted as shown in the images below on marine grade plywood and installed vertically to the ceiling trusses of the gymnasium. The panel scenes will be painted on both sides and permanently installed by the artist and a licensed contractor. Price includes Artist design fee, materials and installation.

**“Junkanoo Fantasy”** will parade across the ceiling on the trusses with a design set up like a junkanoo of color at the ceiling level. The panels, made of marine grade plywood painted with acrylics, will be long lasting and unpalatable to bugs. The colorful sculpture will be out of the way of stray projectiles and solidly installed so that it can withstand constant use.

**Douglass Gym proposal – JH Allen**



Close up “Junkanoo Fantasy” – JH Allen

