



EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

To: Jim Scholl, City Manager

Thru: Kevin Bond, AICP, LEED Green Associate, Acting Planning Director

From: Melissa Paul-Leto, Staff Liaison to the Key West Arts in Public Places (AIPP) Board

Meeting Date: February 3, 2015

RE: Approval of expenditure and locations for Key West AIPP Sidewalk Poetry project

Action Statement: Proposed resolution authorizing the City Manager to award and execute the contract to the lowest bidder for professional engraving services as part of the sidewalk poetry project initiated by the Key West Art in Public Places (AIPP) Board; authorizing the City Manager to execute the necessary documents; authorizing the expenditure of funds from the AIPP account; authorizing the necessary budget allocations; approving the proposed locations of sidewalk poetry; and recognizing the private financial donors to the project

Request: That the City Commission approve the proposed resolution

Background:

The Sidewalk Poetry project was initiated by the Key West Art in Public Places (AIPP) Board in 2012. The goal of the project is to install winning poems on sidewalks throughout the City of Key West as a way to spread appreciation for the arts. The idea for the project was adapted from a community in Minnesota that successfully started a similar sidewalk poetry project. The AIPP Board began by issuing an open call for submission of poems. A subcommittee of the AIPP Board formed a jury to review over 200 entries received. The jury chose 17 winning poems, most of which were written by Key West residents (see attached). Additionally, the subcommittee has thus far solicited about a dozen private financial donations to help pay for the cost of the project. Those donations were submitted to the City via its recently-approved 501(c) (3) tax-exempt status, so that the donations given to the City for AIPP projects are tax-deductible for the donors.

Originally, the 17 winning poems were going to be installed onto City sidewalks by stamping them onto wet concrete at locations where the City would be doing sidewalk repairs. In May 2014, the first two poems were installed using this method: one near St. Paul's Church on Duval Street and one near Capt. Tony's Saloon on Greene Street. The stamp-on-wet-concrete method of installing the poems cost less, but the results were not satisfactory as some portions of the poems are not legible (see attached photos). Additionally, waiting for the next possible City sidewalk repair projects meant that the potential locations for sidewalk poetry would essentially

be random and installed over a longer period of time. As a result, the AIPP Board and City staff decided to pursue a different approach.

In June 2014, the AIPP Board was approached by a local sculptor, Craig Gray, who proposed that the winning poems be engraved onto existing concrete sidewalks. The engraving method was preferred over stamping on wet concrete because it meant the locations could be chosen in advance in the most preferred places. The engraving method would also offer more consistent and predictable results.

A test using the preferred engraving method was conducted by Craig Gray, on December 23, 2014 (see attached). The location, a sidewalk panel across from Mangia Mangia's on Margaret Street at Southard Street was selected by Engineering Services and approved by HARC. The completed test was reviewed by the City's Engineering Department and satisfies safety compliance.

Presentations were delivered to Key West Bight Management District Board on November 12, 2014 and the Bahama Village Redevelopment Advisory Committee on January 9, 2015. The purpose of the presentations were to introduce the Sidewalk Poetry Project's proposed locations at the Key West Bight and Bahama Village's Johnson's Market to the board and committee. Both presentations received positive feedback and interest in the sidewalk poetry installations.

Due to the cost of designing, fabricating templates and engraving the poems, three quotes needed to be obtained. Three quotes were received as follows (see attached):

| | | |
|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------|
| C.R. Gray Stonecarver | Key West, FL | \$7,510.00 |
| Engrave-A-Tech | Summerland Key, FL | \$8,400.00 |
| Mardan Sandblasting | Big Coppitt Key, FL | \$18,785.00 |

Staff and the AIPP Board request City Commission authorization to award the contract for engraving services to the lowest qualified bidder and to expend City AIPP funds to complete the project.

The AIPP subcommittee also recommended locations throughout the City for the 17 winning poems. The attached information includes the winning poems, the proposed locations with maps and site photos. Most of the proposed locations are within City rights-of-way. Those locations within non-City rights-of-way are noted, and any necessary approvals from those agencies would be obtained. The proposed locations are being reviewed by City Engineering staff, HARC staff (and possibly the Commission), the Key West Bight Management District Board and the Bahama Village Redevelopment Advisory Committee. Staff and the AIPP Board request City Commission approve the locations, subject to possible minor changes.

Finally, the proposed resolution would recognize the financial contributions of private donors who made the sidewalk poetry possible.

The proposed resolution would:

- A. Authorize the City Manager to award and execute the contract to the lowest bidder for professional engraving services as part of the sidewalk poetry project initiated by the Key West Art in Public Places (AIPP) Board;
- B. Authorize the City Manager to execute the necessary documents;
- C. Authorize the expenditure of funds from the AIPP public art account;
- D. Authorize the necessary budget allocations;
- E. Approve the proposed locations of sidewalk poetry, subject to minor changes; and
- F. Recognize the private financial donors to the project.

Recommendation: Pass the proposed resolution.