



Making Light Work of Public Art

November 1, 2025

RE: Key West Ramos Lopez Pocket Park Sculpture "Heavy Reading"

Elizabeth Young
Administrator AIPP
1300 White Street
City of Key West, Florida 33040

Dear Ms. Young and AIPP Committee Members,

It has been an honor to have "Heavy Reading" at the Southernmost Pocket Park for the past two years. The stone sculpture celebrates the "Storied" history and contributions of authors to our island home. The artwork includes well know writers such as Judy Blume, Shel Silverstein, and Ernest Hemingway. Also lesser known authors such as Hays Blinckmann and Ben Harrison have their names and books carved in stone.

I would like Key West AIPP to consider purchasing my sculpture and add it to the permanent collection. In addition to the lease payment I have received donations and a grant for this piece helping defray the cost as outlined below.

Heavy Reading Sculpture - cost- \$14,500.00
AIPP paid so far -\$1000.00
AIPP remaining due \$500.00
Anne McKee grant 2023 toward materials-\$2000.00
Pledge from private donors -\$1500.00

Requested amount from unrestricted fund to add to permanent collection-
\$9500.00.

Although the city currently has one of my book benches located at the City Hall Butterfly Garden, its exposure to the public is very limited. "Heavy Reading" shares the "Story " of writing with hundreds of locals and visitors each week at the Ramos Lopez Park, It would be a welcome addition to the city collection. **The unfortunate alternative will be for me to remove the sculpture in 2026 and "chisel off" our local titles and authors to repurpose for a new installation in another community.**

Thank you for the consideration,


Craig Gray



SUPERFUDGE - BLUME

HERE, KITTY
- BLICKMANN

GUMBO LIMBO - CORCORAN

SAILING DOWN
THE MOUNTAIN
- HARRISON

READY OR NOT
- CABOT

COMPLETE POEMS OF
- ROBERT FROST

A FAREWELL TO ARMS
- HEMINGWAY

SUPERFUDGE - BLUME

HERE, KITTY
- BLOCKMANN

[Unreadable text on book spines]

GUMBO LIMBO - CORCORAN

SAILING DOWN
THE MOUNTAIN
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