

# Request for Proposal – Diana Nyad Statue Project

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Key West, Florida

## Project Description

The Diana Nyad Statue Project will commission a qualified artist or team of artists to design a commemorative public art piece in honor of the marathon swimmer Diana Nyad's historic swim from Havana, Cuba to Key West. Nyad along with her 35 member support team, five boats and three kayaks successfully swam a total of 110.86 miles in 52 hours and 54 minutes. Her swim began at the Hemingway Marina on August 31, 2013 and ended at Smathers Beach on September 2, 2013. It was sixty-four year old Nyad's fifth attempt at the historic swim.

## Statue Specifications

1. The statue should be made of bronze and the selected patina and coating must be easy to maintain and repair.
2. The statue should be realistic in its representation of Nyad. She should be portrayed in a bathing suit, bathing cap and goggles in hand. The statue should represent the historic achievement, its spirit of courage, obstacles, perseverance, and triumph.
3. The statue should be 1.1 to 1.2 life size. Diana Nyad is 5 feet 7 inches tall. At the time of the swim she was 138 pounds.
4. The base of the statue and/or the area around the statue should incorporate Diana Nyad's words when she staggered onto the beach in Key West.
  - "You should never, ever give up."
  - "You are never too old to chase your dreams."
  - "It looks like a solitary sport but it's a team."
5. The statue may include other quotes by Diana Nyad.
  - "Find a way."
  - "It was about turning 60, determined to live a bold, fearless life. No regrets. Full commitment. Reaching for the stars, even if failure were the outcome."
  - "We all have dreams. We all suffer heartache. We all need to somehow find the courage, the endurance to FIND A WAY to our respective individual other shores."
6. The artist may elect to incorporate some of the obstacles Nyad encountered during her previous failed attempts as well as her final successful swim.
7. The statue and base design should allow for tourists and residents to stand next to the Diana Nyad statue and take photos.

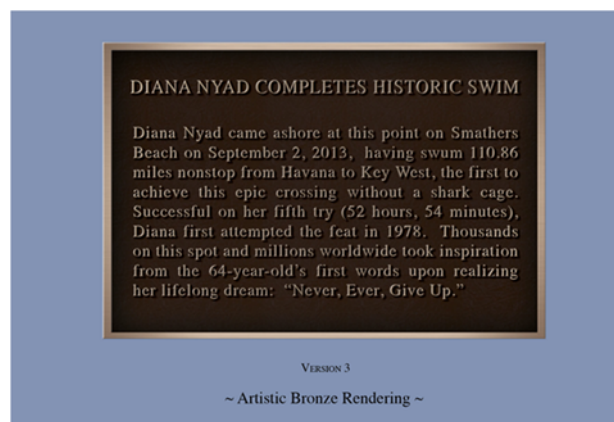
8. It is important for the artist to consider the permanence of the artwork, maintenance requirements and their relationship to such environmental conditions as Key West's harsh sunlight, rain, wind and the location's close proximity to seawater.

## Project Background

On the morning of August 31, 2013, Diana Nyad began her historic swim from Havana, Cuba to Key West Florida. She was accompanied by 35 team members, including navigators, managers, boat crew, weather routers, medical personnel, and shark experts. Nyad was also escorted by two paddlers in kayaks equipped with an electronic shark shield. To keep Nyad swimming in a straight line a slow-moving catamaran support boat deployed a 10-foot streamer designed to remain about 5 feet underwater so that Nyad could swim above it much like following a lane line in a swimming pool. At night, the white streamer was replaced by a string of red LED lights. At night she was protected from jellyfish by a silicone mask, a full bodysuit, gloves and booties. At approximately 1:55 pm EDT on September 2, 2013, Nyad reached Smathers beach in Key West, 52 hours and 54 minutes after she began her journey. She had swum a distance of 110.86 miles without a shark cage.

This was Diana Nyad's fifth attempt at the historic swim. Previous attempts at the swim were thwarted by a variety of problems. "So many times I conjured the Florida beach, the palm trees, to get me through the hundreds of long, grueling training swims. Four times, in the previous attempts at the crossing from Cuba to Florida---be it otherworldly Box Jellyfish stings or a screeching Easterly Gulf Stream or roiling eddies spinning our boats' compasses in full circles or sustained sudden summer storms with life-threatening lightning and 45-mph winds---we were forced to abandon the beautiful dream." Diana Nyad.

The City of Key West would like to memorialize this historic swim by creating a monument, which will be placed on the sea wall at Smathers Beach. The City of Key West has placed the following plaque on the seawall at Smathers Beach to commemorate her swim.



## DIANA NYAD

25 million people worldwide rooted for Diana Nyad as she approached the Florida shore, at long last achieving her 35-year-old dream of becoming the first person to swim from Cuba to Florida.

Diana is not one to quit. On her fifth attempt, speaking the words “Never Ever Give Up” to the wildly cheering crowd on a Key West beach on September 2, 2013, Diana may have been dazed and physically spent, but she showed the world what persistence and belief can manifest.

Diana stroked the amazing 110.86 miles in 52 hours, 54 minutes, 18 seconds.

A worldwide response of inspiration came flooding toward Diana, from personal messages from President Obama and Hillary Clinton to literally millions of people who felt their own lives lifted with Diana’s “Find a Way” philosophy.

Daring to reach for the stars, this swim beginning to seem impossible (after her four attempts over 35 years and other strong swimmers trying and failing since 1950), Diana has motivated the world at large to be bold, to live fearlessly, to chase one’s dreams with unwavering commitment.

The second statement the victorious 64-year-old made on that Key West beach? “You’re never too old to chase your dreams.” And her third statement on that historic day:

“It looks a solitary sport, but it’s a TEAM.”

Courage, bold vision, and the ability to articulate her life philosophies have propelled Diana through an inspiring life.

A prominent sports journalist, filing for National Public Radio, ABC’s Wide World of Sports, The New York Times, the Huffington Post and others, Diana has carved her place as one of our compelling storytellers.

Her memoir, Find a Way, is now in bookstores and available on [Amazon.com](https://www.amazon.com)

She has written three other books and speaks French and Spanish fluently.

Diana has also earned the reputation of a uniquely entertaining and inspiring public speaker and has taken her one-woman stage show “ONWARD!” to a theatrical performance.

Diana's Cuba Swim Head Handler and best friend Bonnie Stoll, are on a mission called EverWalk, to lead us walking along the epic outdoor corridors of America. Diana and Bonnie intend to turn us into a nation of millions of walkers.

**Diana Nyad Public Art Piece Site:**

Smathers Beach, Sea Wall, Key West, Florida

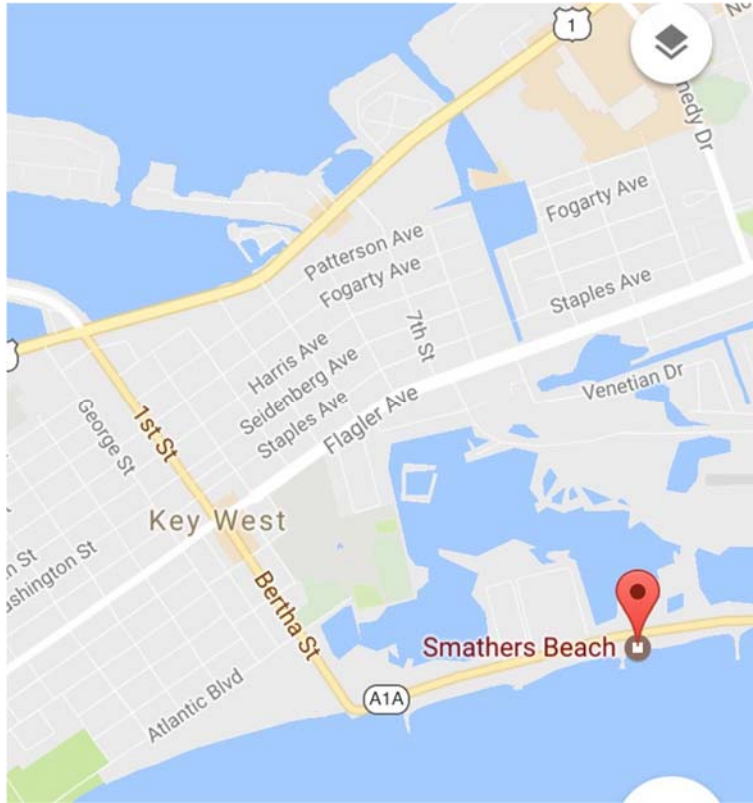
A signature work of public art is envisioned on a platform on the seawall at Smathers Beach.

**Location Background:**

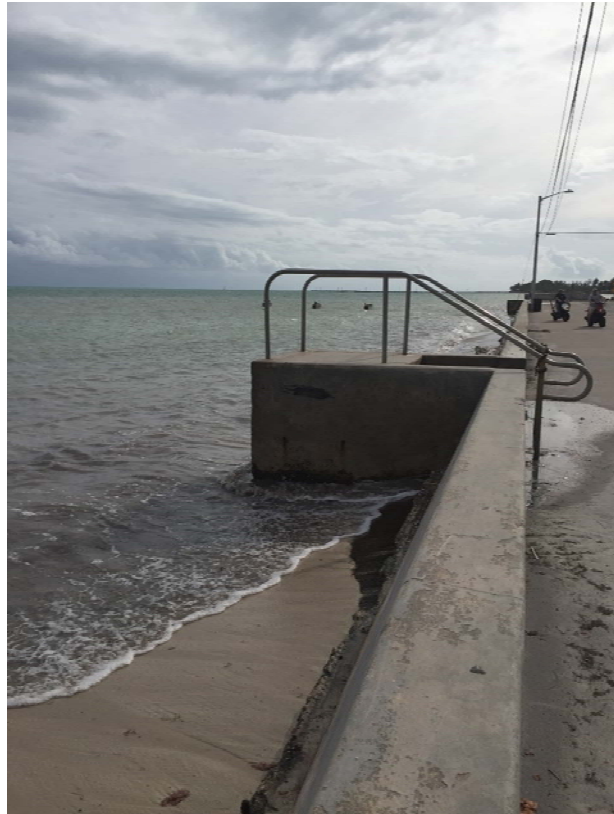
Approximately one-half mile long, Smathers Beach is the largest strip of sandy public beach in Key West. The beach is located on the South side of the island, along the Atlantic Ocean and State Road A1A, and begins at mile marker zero, the beginning of A1A. The beach is lined with coconut trees and is often crowded with tourists and locals alike. There is a wide paved path along the beach for walking, biking, and skating.

The specific location for the statue is at the very South end of Smathers Beach as you enter onto South Roosevelt Boulevard (A1A) from Bertha Street. The location is an unused stairwell that leads to a platform on the seawall just before the Sunset Watersports rental hut. The platform is currently 60 inches by 63 inches excluding the stairs. The platform could possibly be expanded to accommodate the statue design. The location has extensive vehicular traffic being on A1A and is a popular route for both bikers and pedestrians. The ocean will be the backdrop of the statue which is a fitting setting to honor Cuba to Florida swim. This particular ocean and this particular beach is exactly where Diana Nyad emerged from the sea. The Diana Nyad Statue will figure prominently in the marketing of Key West's proposed phone app which will provide visitors with a public art guide.

The following photos illustrate the proposed statue location. The statue will be where the A1A sign is on the map. The railing will be removed from the stairs and the platform will be reconfigured to accommodate the statue.







## **Funding**

The majority of the project will be funded through private donations.

## **Scope of Work**

The Scope of Work entails designing, constructing and installing the Diana Nyad Statue close to or on the Seawall along Smathers Beach. The artist is required to incorporate in the design enough space to include biographical information about Diana Nyad as well as donor recognition information. Also, the artist will be required to consult with the City's Engineering Department and other designees as deemed necessary by the City to successfully complete the project. The City of Key West will make modifications to the statue platform as deemed necessary to accommodate the statue design. The design should include safe access to the statue so tourists and residents can take photos with the statue of Diana.

## **Timeline**

- \*\*\*\* RFP issued.
- \*\*\*\* Deadline for receipt of artist proposals.
- \*\*\*\* Selection Committee reviews proposals and selects up to ten semi-finalists.
- \*\*\*\* Semi-finalists are given more specific instructions based on a review of proposals. Semi-finalists are given thirty-days to revise their concept and design and give more detail to their design if they elect to do so.
- \*\*\*\* Selection Committee selects no more than three finalists. Finalists will be given 30 days to construct a maquette to present to The Selection Committee.
- \*\*\*\* The Selection Committee and all three semi-finalists will meet in Key West, Florida. All finalists will present a maquette and be interviewed by The Selection Committee.
- \*\*\*\* The Selection Committee will present the artist and the design to the City of Key West Commission for approval.
- \*\*\*\* Once the design is approved by the City of Key West, the Diana Nyad Statue Project will award the commission.
- \*\*\*\* Monument Design and Development.
- \*\*\*\* Construction / Installation.
- \*\*\*\* Dedication Ceremony and Celebration.



## **Diana Nyad Statue Selection Committee**

The Diana Nyad Statue Selection Committee will be formed and tasked with reviewing all submissions and recommending semi-finalists, finalists, and ultimately selecting the artist for the commission. The primary criteria for finalist selection will be previous artistic accomplishment as demonstrated in images of previously completed artwork, public art experience, and exhibition record in galleries and/or museums. The finalists recommend by the Selection Committee will be awarded \$1000 to develop specific proposals prior to the final selection. The Selection Committee will review the finalists specific proposals and will recommend one proposal for the commission. Each step of this process will include close consultation with City of Key West Art in Public Places representatives.

### **Project Chair**

Dr. Lynette Long, President, Equal Visibility Everywhere, Miami, Florida

### **Members of the Selection Committee:**

Lynette Long, President, Equal Visibility Everywhere

Heather Caruthers, Board of County Commissioners

Candace Hogan, Esri Press

Bonnie Stoll, EverWalk

Richard Tallmadge, Chairman, Art in Public Places, Key West

Jimmy Weekley, Commissioner, City of Key West

### **Eligibility**

National open call to all professional artists or artist teams. Application from architects, landscape architects or other design professionals will not be considered unless included as part of an artist-led team.

### **Submission Requirements**

Application Deadline Submissions must be received as a complete application to [DrLynetteLong@gmail.com](mailto:DrLynetteLong@gmail.com) no later than FRIDAY, \*\*\*\* 2017, midnight.

1. Submissions - Submissions must be received as a complete application. There is NO application fee.

2. Previous Works – Submit five to ten images of previously completed work. Please accurately identify the subject, medium, dimensions, date, location, client, and completion date.
3. Artist Statement - Explain in no more than 500 words the body of your work, your philosophy, technique, or other information not apparent through the images that may aid The Selection Committee in fully comprehending you as an artist or your work in general. This should be a summary of your artistic focus and professional career, especially as your background relates to your qualifications for this project
4. Resume - Include a current professional resume. The artist’s professional experience must meet the demands of the project.
5. Narrative - Submit a narrative and description of the proposed Diana Nyad Statue and explain what you are trying to achieve in the design.
6. Design Drawing - Attach a design drawing for the Diana Nyad Statue.
7. Timeline -Provide a timeline for the various stages in the statue creation and completion.
8. Budget - Submit an estimate for ALL project costs including all anticipated sculpture expenses related to the design and construction of the statue including: design of statue and pedestal, base, and other elements including maquette creation, and artist travel to and from Key West, Florida.
9. References - Provide three references with contact information.
10. Miscellaneous - Provide any other desired supplemental material.

### **Compensation**

The Diana Nyad Project will not compensate anyone for preparing or presenting a solicitation to this RFP.

### **Cancellation of RFP**

If there are no proposals which adequately meet the specifications in this document The Diana Nyad Statue Project reserves the right to reject in whole or in part, all proposals submitted and/or cancel this RFP.

### **Evaluation**

The RFP is an information solicitation and offers received are a matter of public record. The proposals presented may be presented to the press, the public or the other government officials. Once submitted, all proposals are the property of The Committee.

All proposals will be evaluated on the following criteria:

1. Artistic excellence of the sample work submitted.

2. Proposed approach to the subject.
3. Experience in producing large-scale work.
4. Ability to carry out a nationally significant sculpture commission and do so in a timely manner.
5. Cost of the project.

The Diana Nyad Project Advisory Committee will conduct the evaluation in three phases:

Phase 1 – The Committee will review all proposals and select not more than ten semi-finalists. The semi-finalists will be given direction by The Selection Committee based on a review of all submissions. All semi-finalists will receive the same feedback and have 30 days to revise their proposals if they elect to do so.

Phase 2 – Based on the revised proposals The Committee will select not more than three finalists. Finalists will receive a cash prize of \$1000. All finalists will be required to create a maquette.

Phase 3 -All finalists will be invited to travel to Key West, Florida (travel expenses will be paid for) with their maquette to be personally interviewed by the Selection Committee. During this interview finalists will present their design concept and answer questions. Finalists will leave their maquette in Key West until a decision is reached. Once a decision is reached, all maquettes will be returned to the artist.

### **Disclaimer**

Accuracy of information: Every effort has been made to include accurate information, instructions, and specifications necessary to tender this offer. However, neither the Diana Nyad Statue Selection Committee nor any of its members, nor Diana Nyad, nor the City of Key West, Florida is legally responsible for the accuracy of this information.

### **ADA**

Persons with Americans Disabilities Act status may request equitable accommodation by contacting the Diana Nyad Project Chair. Please request accommodations as early as may be possible to allow time to arrange the facilitation of your needs.

### **Contact**

Direct all questions in regard to this RFP to Dr. Lynette Long at [drlynettelong@gmail.com](mailto:drlynettelong@gmail.com).

### **Additional Information**

Additional information about Diana Nyad can be found at [DianaNyad.com](http://DianaNyad.com). Artists are also encouraged to read *Find a Way: The Inspiring Story of One Woman's Pursuit of a Lifelong Dream* (Vintage, 2016).