



Housing Authority of the City of Key West, Florida

1400 Kennedy Drive, Key West, FL 33040
Phone: (305) 296-5621 Fax: (305) 296-0932
TTY/Florida Relay Service (FRS) 1-800-955-8771

Board of Commissioners

Frank Toppino
Bob Dean
Mary Sanchez
John G. Parks, Jr.
Roosevelt Sands, Jr.

Executive Director
J. Manuel Castillo, Sr.

October 11, 2016

Thaddeus Cohen, Planning Director
City of Key West, Florida
3104 Flagler Avenue
Key West, FL 33040

Dear Mr. Cohen:

Poinciana Gardens is owned by the Housing Authority of the City of Key West and is being operated as a non-profit organization that provides 100% affordable housing and services to senior citizens. The financing for the project requires that a public purpose be included as condition of the financing, and in this case the public purpose is the provision of rents at affordable rates and the provisions of services at cost.

Although the Housing Authority is reserving their option to have their public art fund set aside requirement waived, all or in part, the project will nevertheless have several art components that would otherwise fulfill the art in public places requirement and continue the effort of meeting the requirement:

1. Design and installation of a contemplation garden in the atrium of the residential building
2. A public display collage prepared by a local Key West artist that focuses on the history of Transportation in Key West, including a multi-media display of the railway, the highway, the port, and a detailed model of the "City of Key West" paddle wheeler that was made in the last century and will be restored by a Key West artist.
3. Original art and prints by Key West artists in the hallways and public rooms.
4. A Walking Path that will include benches commissioned to Key West artists, sculpture by Key West artists, a scent and herb garden with signage designed and made by Key West artists, displays of rock and coral species native to Florida with mountings and signage made by Key West artists, and specimen trees with signage designed and made by Key West artists.

While no budget has been developed for these items, they will be completed as part of the project and are included in the project budget. Those items requiring permitting are included in the architectural plans.

The purpose of this letter is to request a deferral of the obligation to file a plan for Art in Public Places as a pre-condition to receiving Planning approval of building permits for construction of the Poinciana Gardens Senior Living facility, and the possibility to formally request a waiver of public art set-aside requirement, pursuant to Key West Ordinance 2-487(c) (1) c.

Thank you for your consideration,


J. Manuel Castillo, Sr.
Executive Director

