

## **PUBLIC ART COMMITTEE**

### **Meeting Minutes – January 13, 2026**

The Public Art Committee met on January 13, 2026, at the Oscar M. Corbin, Jr. City Council Chambers located at 2200 Second Street, Fort Myers, FL, from 4:00 pm to 6:09 p.m.

### **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 pm by Jane Lane.

### **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

### **ROLL CALL**

Roll call was taken by Tom Hall.

**Members Present:** Carolyn Gora, Mayoral, Marty Ambrose, Ward 1; David Meo, Ward 2; Ava Roeder, Ward 3; Stacy Krupa, Vice Chair / Ward 4; Jane Lane, Chair / Ward 5; Tom Hall, Public Art Consultant

**Also in Attendance:** Amanda Browing-Richardson; Assistant City Attorney, Abraham Luna; Parks and Beautification Manager, Chrissy Penwell, Liston Bochette; Ward 4 Councilperson, Sherry Shifrin; Fort Myers Mural Society, Mary Davis Wallace; Public Art Consultant

### **Not in Attendance:**

### **PUBLIC COMMENT:**

None.

### **REGULAR ITEMS:**

#### **1. Approval of Minutes**

The motion to approve November 18, 2025, Public Art Committee meeting minutes, passed unanimously.

The meeting minutes from December 16, 2025, were provided but have not yet been reviewed and will be presented at the next meeting for approval.

## **2. Update on CFMPA Program, 2026 Annual Plan**

GO BONDS Arts in the Park (Tom): Jane, Staci, Marty, Ava

Art Grant Recipient Show (Tom) - May 2026: Ava, David

Art Fest (Jane) - Feb 6 – Feb 8, 2026: Ava, Staci, All work booth

Art in Council Chambers Project (Tom & Shari): Ava (Dec & Jan), Staci (Feb & Mar), Marty (April & May) – PROJECT IS ON HOLD

## **3. Introduction and Presentation on Public Art Program Reengagement**

Mary Davis Wallace, Public Art Consultant, introduced herself and shared background information on her experience and work in cultural planning. She expressed her enthusiasm for working with the City of Fort Myers Public Art Committee. Ms. Davis Wallace then delivered a presentation of approximately 20 slides outlining her proposed plan, including a timeline for each phase. The timeline, which spans approximately four to six months, includes dates for PAC information sessions and community roundtables.

## **4. Comments from City Council Member, Liston Bochette**

Mr. Bochette inquired whether the Public Art Committee (PAC) is working with the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) on the Innovation Walk project. Ms. Lane reported that the CRA has not reached out to the committee, and Mr. Bochette indicated he would follow up.

Mr. Bochette stated that he will prepare a coffee budget for PAC meetings in his capacity as Mayor Pro-Tem and reminded the committee that all expenses require City Council approval.

Mr. Bochette noted that a recent City Council workshop included discussions of architectural standards for Midtown. The Public Art Committee (PAC) has requested to be included in the next workshop on this topic. He also shared that City Council would like the PAC to consider expanding its focus to include dance and music, with an emphasis on representing all art forms.

Ms. Gora said that the County should have a Public Art Committee. Mr. Bochette stated that he would be willing to bring this information to the Tourist Development Committee (TDC) and could sponsor an agenda item if the PAC would like to make a presentation.

Ms. Sherry Shifrin, Director of the Fort Myers Mural Society, presented Trailhead Park imagery depicting artwork she envisions for the park areas and the Fire Training Building. She reported that she is working with sponsors to obtain discounted paint, as the cost is rather high. Ms. Lane suggested revisiting whether artwork on the training building represents the best use of available funding.

Given the status of putting in the supports for the art panels at Trailhead Park, it appears that the event will need to be rescheduled from March to possibly October or November.

Ms. Shifrin and Mr. Hall reported that they met with the Community Redevelopment Agency (CRA) the previous day and are planning an unveiling upon completion of the River Basin Project. The CRA will provide a date and a list of business partners to be formally invited. They also shared that the CRA fully funded stanchion repairs totaling \$600,000. Including art installations and related improvements, the project totals approximately \$750,000. All 57 murals are now in place. The Otocasts have been installed. Ms. Shifrin noted interest in including a storytelling plaque to explain the project and recognize the participating artists. She further stated that the unveiling is anticipated to take place around the week of the Edison Festival, given there is enough time for the permitting process.

## **5. Comments and Updates on All Current Projects, Status of Current Collection**

Mr. Hall asked the Public Art Committee (PAC) to consider whether it would like to hold a formal dedication ceremony for the River Basin Project. He noted that such an event would incur costs and would require City Council approval once a budget is established, as Public Art funds are not currently approved for dedication ceremonies. The PAC expressed support for holding the ceremony and collaborating with the Luminary. Mr. Hall stated that he will reach out to the City's Public Information Officer for guidance, as well as Parks and Recreation regarding tents and chairs.

Mr. Hall reported that he conducted an assessment survey of the collection earlier this year and identified one piece requiring immediate consideration: *The Spirit of Fort Myers*, also known as *Rachel at the Well*. Although the restoration has been completed, Mr. Hall noted

that the sculpture requires additional cleaning due to mold and organic growth, as well as repair of a hairline fracture. Mr. Hall recommended engaging Kelly Cacioppo, who completed the restoration, or Rosa Lowinger to perform the work. He also noted that the sculpture will celebrate its 100th anniversary in April and should be in optimal condition in recognition of its centennial, as it is likely to receive special attention. Mr. Hall stated that he will reach out to obtain a cost estimate for the cleaning. Mr. Hall further recommended coordinating with Parks and Recreation to ensure the bougainvillea is properly trimmed, particularly during hurricane season, and that it does not become intertwined with the fence uprights.

Of the 37 outdoor sculptures, there are approximately 10 that are in dire need of maintenance. Mr. Hall recommends getting estimates for the repairs and prioritizing them. The PAC committee agrees with the recommendation.

Mr. Hall reported that the Carmona sculptures are presenting significant maintenance challenges, including extensive rust, deterioration or disintegration of some sculptures or their bases, and staining of the concrete beneath them. He recommended that the Public Art Committee (PAC) consider how much to invest in conserving individual sculptures in relation to their original cost and current value. Concerns were also expressed that the condition of some sculptures may not present a positive impression. Mr. Hall suggested that Parks and Recreation retrieve certain sculptures due to safety and liability concerns. Mr. Hall stated that he will reach out to Kelly Cacioppo and/or Rosa Lowinger to obtain cost estimates and present them at the next meeting for further discussion.

## **6. Update on Art Fest**

Ms. Krupa developed and presented two photo opportunity concepts for Art Fest. The Public Art Committee (PAC) selected the second option. Ms. Jane will provide the wording and logo to Ms. Krupa, who will then provide the cost to Ms. Lane and proceed with printing.

## **7. General Discussion**

Ms. Lane reported that the City of Fort Myers will be depositing into the PAC account, if approved by City Council, \$470,997,000.02, for the amount that is owed for projects, per internal audit that was conducted by the City of Fort Myers.

Chrissy Penwell spoke to Committee members about her suggestion to bring back an event called Empty Bowls, which works with Harry Chapin to provide food to those in need.

Ms. Lane suggested a refresher of the Sunshine Law to clear up any questions or misconceptions.

## **10. Adjourn**

A motion to adjourn carried unanimously. Meeting adjourned at 6:09 p.m.

# City of Fort Myers Florida

## Public Art Committee

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### Info Session 1

### January 13, 2026



# About Cultural Planning Consultants

Urban and cultural planning are intertwined disciplines that focus on the development and organization of cities and communities to foster sustainable growth, participation, and cultural enrichment.

CPC was founded to help cities create meaningful connections between art, culture, and urban design.



# Foundational Experiences and Values

landscape  
architecture  
and the built  
environment

urban and  
regional  
planning

parks and open  
space

art and culture

public process

## Cultural Planning



## Core Values of CPC

“Create a Full Circle Moment” is a mantra we live by.



No single project, conversation, or decision lives in a vacuum; rather, it is part of a timeline of actions and outcomes that affect how we build cities, support communities, and plan for the future.



## Scope of Work

- Conduct a three-part approach to **recalibrate** the Public Art Program in preparation for a new master plan.
- CPC will apply a 'full circle' approach through focused consideration of **all affected disciplines** within the municipal system and beyond.
- These phases will help to establish a **sustainable foundation** on which a successful cultural approach will thrive.

Total time anticipated for the scope within this proposal is 4-6 months.

Phase	Date	Action
I	*January 13	<b>Info Session 1</b> – <i>The Field of Cultural Planning and the Relevance of Public Art Programs</i> Distribute Paper Surveys to PAC Members
I	*February 10	<b>Info Session 2</b> – <i>Public Art Committee Expectations and Policies: Where the PA Program Fits into the Larger Vision for Fort Myers</i> Discuss Work Plan and Budget Next Steps Review survey results
FINANCE	MARCH	Anticipated Budget Kickoff meeting with Departments to review timeline, process, and procedures
I	*March 17	<b>Info Session 3</b> – <i>The Future of the PA Program</i> Review and PAC Approval of Public Art Work Plan for FY27
FINANCE	APRIL	Department budgets due to Budget Office
I	*April 21	<b>Info Session 4</b> – <i>An Introduction to Master Planning and Policymaking</i> Identify community stakeholders to participate in roundtable discussion on June 16
II	*May 19	Begin review of Public Art Ordinance and Master Plan Promote June 16 community round table panel
II	May–June	Finalize FY27 Public Art Work Plan and budget issue coordination
II	*June 16	Community-led panel/discussion on cultural heritage and economic development Present Public Art Work Plan for PAC Approval
III	*June 21	Deliver Public Art Program Recommendations Document
III	Phase III: July (Aug, September if requested)	Conduct Relevant Departmental Meetings (review status to date)
III	Summary Presentation	Present findings during board report to City Council (DATE TBD - Ideal: August CC Meeting)

<b>Phase</b>	<b>Deliverable</b>
1	<b>Public Art Committee Member Survey and Summary Document</b>
1	<b>Session Presentation Decks and Summary Documents</b>
1	<b>Community Panel Marketing and Summary Document</b>
2	<b>Public Art Program Recommendations Document</b>
2	<b>Project Matrix and Draft Budget</b>
3	<b>FY27 Public Art Work Plan</b>
3	<b>FY27 Public Art Program Budget Issue and Backup</b>

# **PAC Info Sessions and Community Roundtable**

**JAN 13** Info Session 1 – *The Field of Cultural Planning and the Relevance of Public Art Programs*

**FEB 10** Info Session 2 – *Public Art Committee Expectations and Policies*

**MAR 17** Info Session 3 – *The Future of the Public Art Program: Where the PA Program Fits into the Larger Fort Myers Vision*

**APR 21** Info Session 4 – *An Introduction to Master Planning and Policymaking*

**JUN 16** Community Roundtable – **Topic and Guests TBD**



# **The Field of Cultural Planning**

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**and the (New)  
Relevance of Public  
Art Programs**

# Cultural Planning

Cultural planning is a structured, community-centered process that helps a city, district, or region understand its cultural assets, articulate a shared vision, and design strategies that strengthen cultural life as part of broader civic engagement.

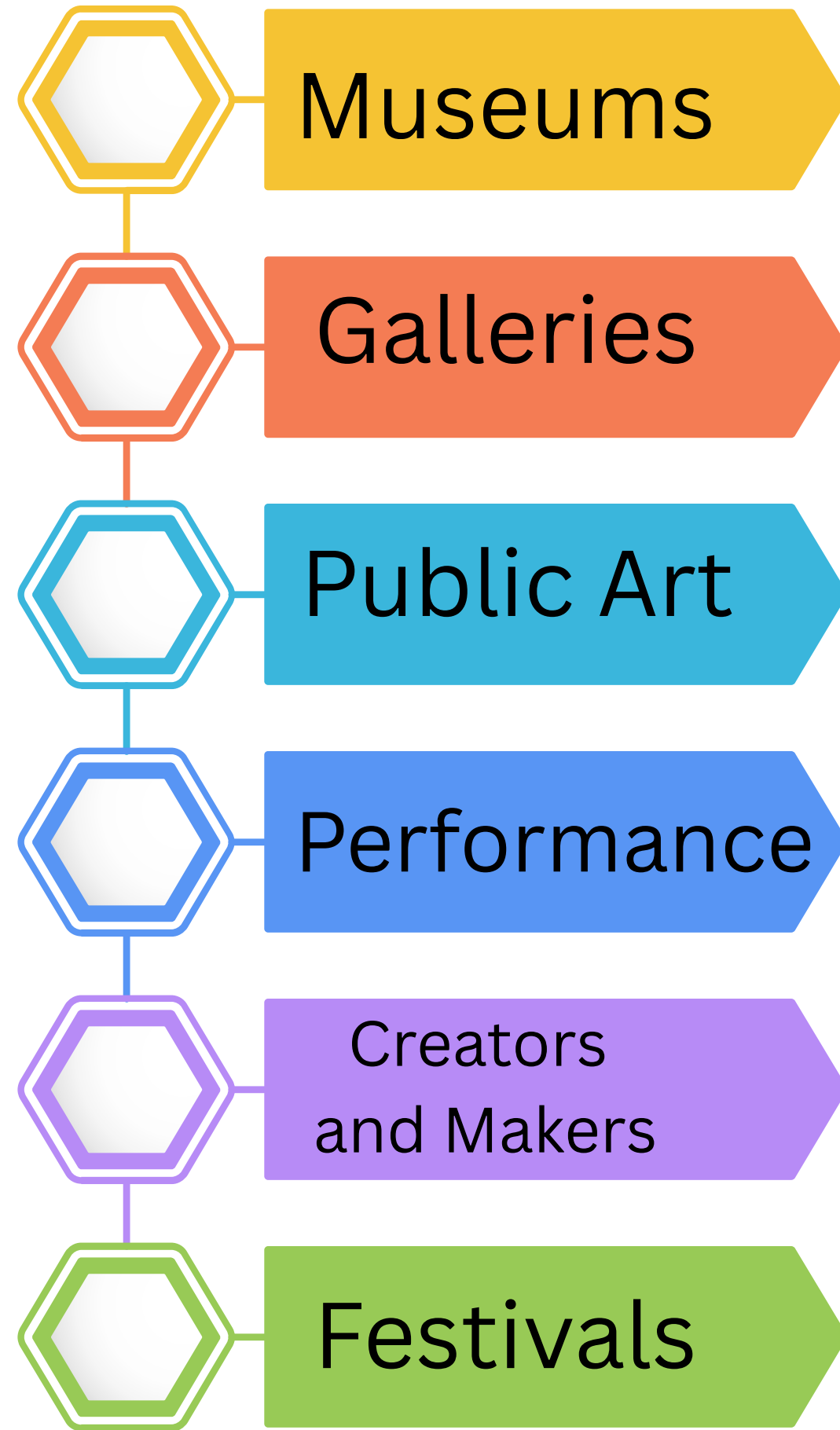




# Cultural Planning in Fort Myers

- Honoring a layered history
- Strengthening the River District and emerging cultural nodes
- Supporting the creative workforce
- Embedding culture in resilience and recovery
- Expanding access to cultural assets
- Coordinating public art and cultural elements with city planning
- Boosting the economic development of Fort Myers
- Creating succession for tomorrow's cultural leaders and community members

**Top  
Cultural  
Elements  
within a  
Community**



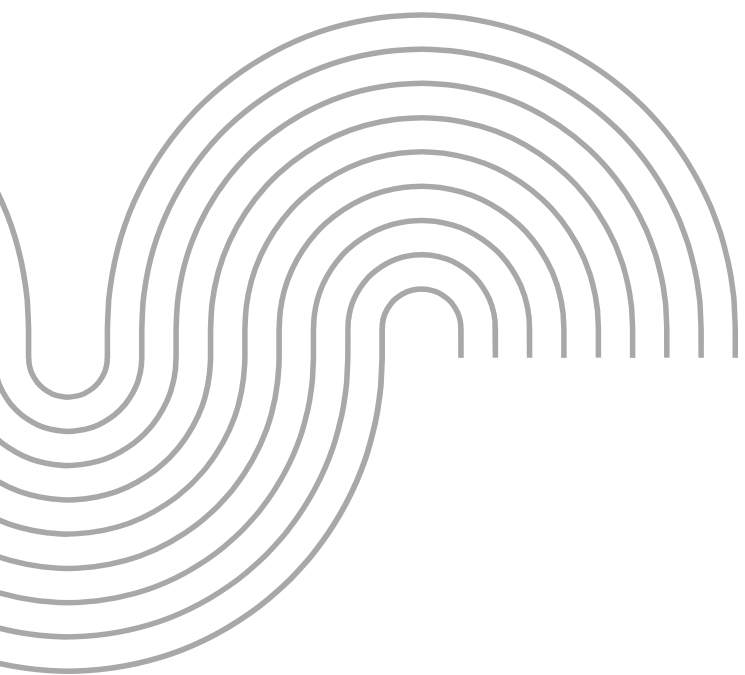
# Public Art

Then	
	Stand-alone sculptures placed after planning decisions were made.
	Aesthetic enhancement was the primary goal.
Now	
	Integrated into planning frameworks from the beginning of projects.
	Used to shape placemaking, identity, and public space activation.
	Plays a role in sustainable urban development and urban renewal.
	Creates a sense of place for community





**Bus Home bus stop sculpture by Dennis Oppenheim in Ventura, California.**



**Public art continues to transform, shifting from decorative beautification to becoming a strategic tool in urban planning, economic development, and community engagement.**



Cultural Plans	Cultural Planning
Created every 5–10 years; rarely updated.	Living, Adaptive Process
Centered on institutions, venues, and traditional programming.	Cross-Sector & Interdisciplinary
Expert-Driven	Integrates public art, placemaking (placekeeping), tourism, resilience, and creative economy.
Priorities shaped by consultants and institutions; limited community input.	Community-Driven
Facility-Centered	Built through listening sessions, surveys, workshops, and co-creation.
Emphasis on buildings, capital projects, and organizational needs.	People, Places & Systems-Centered
Separate from Urban Planning	Focus on public space activation, cultural equity, and neighborhood identity.
Not aligned with zoning, redevelopment, transportation, or economic strategy.	Embedded in comprehensive plans, CRA work, mobility planning, and redevelopment.
Output-Based Metrics	Outcome-Based Metrics
Counted events, attendance, and grants.	Measures belonging, safety, activity, economic impact, and civic participation.



# Tangible Cultural Elements within a Community

<b>Public Art</b>	Sculptures, murals, integrated artworks, monuments, temporary installations	Enhances identity, activates public space, supports artists, aligns with capital projects
<b>Museums &amp; Cultural Centers</b>	History museums, art museums, heritage centers	Anchor institutions for education, tourism, and cultural preservation
<b>Venues</b>	Performing arts centers, amphitheaters, event halls	Provide space for performances, gatherings, and cultural expression
<b>Nonprofit Organizations</b>	Visual arts nonprofits, cultural alliances, arts councils	Deliver programming, support artists, and build cultural infrastructure
<b>Performance Organizations</b>	Theatres, dance companies, music schools, orchestras	Drive creative production and community engagement
<b>Artist Studios &amp; Creative Workspaces</b>	Studio buildings, maker spaces, shared creative facilities	Support the creative workforce and local entrepreneurship
<b>Galleries</b>	Commercial galleries, co-ops, pop-ups	Showcase local artists and support the creative economy
<b>Colleges &amp; Universities</b>	Art departments, cultural programs, student galleries	Provide education, talent pipelines, and research partnerships
<b>Libraries</b>	Public libraries, archives, special collections	Provide access to knowledge, culture, and community programs
<b>Cultural Groups</b>	Heritage groups, cultural associations, identity-based organizations	Preserve traditions and foster cultural heritage
<b>Special Events</b>	Parades, neighborhood celebrations, cultural holidays	Strengthen community identity and participation
<b>Festivals</b>	Art festivals, music festivals, food festivals	Drive tourism, economic activity, and cultural visibility
<b>Nonprofits</b>	Community development orgs, youth arts nonprofits	Expand access and cultural programming
<b>Private Businesses</b>	Creative businesses, design firms, music venues, bookstores	Contribute to the creative economy and cultural vibrancy



# Core Outcomes

- **Sense of Ownership**
- **Emotional Resilience**
- **Increased Safety**
- **Cultural Literacy**
- **Willingness to Collaborate**
- **Intergenerational Connection**
- **Increased Activity**
- **Creative Confidence**
- **Increased Public Trust**
- **Social Cohesion**
- **Civic Participation**
- **Economic Signals**
- **Cultural Identity & Pride**
- **Healing & Restoration**
- **Higher Attendance**





# Economic Impact through Creative and Cultural Infrastructure

## Cultural Districts and Activity Centers

Designated or emerging areas that attract large numbers of people (visitors and residents).

## Historic Buildings and Heritage Sites

Landmarks, historic homes, preserved districts, cemeteries, and culturally significant architecture.

## Landscape Architecture

Waterfronts, plazas, parks, gardens, and natural sites with cultural meaning.

## Trails and Wayfinding Systems

Public art trails, heritage walks, interpretive signage.

Increasingly, modern urban planning viewing public art as essential infrastructure for a successful city

We will explore how Fort Myers can advance the cultural infrastructure through public art and community programs

Create a sense of advocacy, collaboration, and excitement from the inside out

Establish a system for implementing and growing the program



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**Thank you and  
Questions**



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