

ST. PETERSBURG CITY COUNCIL

Consent Agenda

February 29, 2024

TO: The Honorable Deborah Figgs-Sanders, Chair, and Members of City Council

SUBJECT: A resolution approving an agreement (“Artist Agreement”) between the City of St. Petersburg, Florida and Ya La’ford (“Artist”) for Artist to design, fabricate and install an exterior artistic sculpture entitled, “Courageous 12 Monument” at the Orange Station site, located at 1301 1st Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL for a total firm fixed price of \$513,000; authorizing the City Attorney to make non-substantive changes to the Artist Agreement; authorizing the Mayor or his designee to execute the Artist Agreement and all other documents necessary to effectuate this transaction; recognizing a commitment from Lorna Taylor to donate \$150,000 to supplement the budget for the “Courageous 12 Monument”; approving a transfer in the amount of \$400,000 from the unappropriated balance of the General Fund (0001) to the Art in Public Places Fund (1901); approving a transfer in the amount of \$113,000 from the balance of the General Fund Contingency (0001) to the Art in Public Places Fund (1901); approving a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$513,000 from the unappropriated balance of the Art in Public Places Fund (1901), resulting from the above transfers, to the Courageous 12 Monument Project (TBD); and providing an effective date.

EXPLANATION: During September 2019 support emails were sent to City Council members for a memorial honoring 12 of the 15 black police officers that in 1965 filed a discrimination lawsuit to gain the full rights and authority of their white counterparts. The officers prevailed opening the door for equal rights in the city’s law enforcement. On September 19, 2019, City Council requested that administration commence the process to commission and fund commemorative artwork to recognize the fearless actions of the black police officers.

Public Arts Commission member CM Lisa Wheeler-Bowman brought the matter to the Public Arts Commission and on December 1st the Public Arts Commission voted to form a committee for the creation of the Courageous 12 Memorial. On December 16, 2020, the Courageous 12 committee met. Historical context on the Courageous 12 event and Ya La’ford’s background was given by CM Lisa Wheeler-Bowman and Courageous Twelve Officer, Mr. Leon Jackson. After a discussion, committee member Binger motioned with committee member Farrell that artist Ya La’ford be selected as the artist for the Courageous Twelve public art project. All were in favor of the motion.

Simultaneously, in August 2020, City Council voted unanimously to support a local firm’s plan to redevelop the city’s former police headquarters into a mixed-use project with office and retail space, residences and parking. Specifically, the council vote authorized Edge Central Development Partners — a group comprising J Square Developers, Backstreets Capital and DDA Development — to proceed with a lease and development agreement for the roughly two-acre site at 1300 First Ave. North, which included \$100,000 towards art in public places.

In August 2023, City Council approved the third amended reiteration to the agreement with Edge Central Development Partners, to change the project plans for the site of the old St. Pete Police headquarters at 1301 Central Ave. “In addition to the increase of the workforce unit count, the partners are also bumping up their financial contribution from \$100,000 to \$250,000 for a public art piece created by Ya La’ford. The artwork will honor The Courageous 12.”

Ya La’ford presented her renderings for the Courageous 12 Monument during the September 6, 2023 committee meeting with an updated budget. The artist had also secured additional funding of \$150,000 from a private donor, Lorna Taylor, to support the \$500,000 budget. On September 20th the committee met again and Ya La’ford presented a final rendering and updated budget of \$513,000. Both were approved by the committee. On October 3, 2023, the Public Arts Commission approved the Committee’s selection and made a recommendation that City Council approve an agreement for the artist, Ya La’ford to fully design, fabricate, and install “Courageous 12 Monument” at the Orange Station site for a total cost of \$513,000.

RECOMMENDATION: Administration recommends that City Council approve a resolution approving an agreement between the City of St. Petersburg, Florida and artist Ya La’ford to design, fabricate and install an exterior artistic sculpture entitled, “Courageous 12 Monument” at the Orange Station site, located at 1301 1st Avenue North, St. Petersburg, FL for a total firm fixed price of \$513,000; authorizing the City Attorney to make non-substantive changes to the Artist Agreement; authorizing the Mayor or his designee to execute the Artist Agreement and all other documents necessary to effectuate this transaction; recognizing a commitment from Lorna Taylor to donate \$150,000 to supplement the budget for the “Courageous 12 Monument”; approving a transfer in the amount of \$400,000 from the unappropriated balance of the General Fund (0001) to the Art in Public Places Fund (1901); approving a transfer in the amount of \$113,000 from the balance of the General Fund Contingency (0001) to the Art in Public Places Fund (1901); approving a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$513,000 from the unappropriated balance of the Art in Public Places Fund (1901), resulting from the above transfers, to the Courageous 12 Monument Project (TBD).

COST/FUNDING/ASSESSMENT INFORMATION: Due to the timing of receipt of the developer contribution and donated funds, a transfer from the General Fund (0001) to the Art in Public Places Fund (1901) for the project will be required. Revenues in the amount of \$250,000 from the developer for Orange Station, Edge Central Development Partners, and \$150,000 from a private donor, Lorna Taylor, will be received and deposited in the General Fund (0001) to refund the General Fund for the initial transfer. The City’s portion of the project, \$113,000, will come from the General Fund Contingency. Funding for the project will be available after approval of a transfer in the amount of \$400,000 from the unappropriated balance of the General Fund (0001) to the Art in Public Places Fund (1901), a transfer in the amount of \$113,000 from the balance of the General Fund Contingency (0001) to the Art in Public Places Fund (1901), and a supplemental appropriation in the amount of \$513,000 from the unappropriated balance of the Art in Public Places Fund (1901), resulting from the above transfers, to the Courageous 12 Monument Project

(TBD). Following this transfer the remaining balance of the General Fund Contingency will be \$1,004,000 (\$326,000 – Gas Plant, \$678,000 – Regular Contingency).

ATTACHMENTS: Resolution, Artist Agreement

APPROVALS:

Administration:  _____

Budget:  _____