

**Village of Royal Palm Beach
Village Council
Agenda Item Summary**

Agenda Item:

PUBLIC HEARING TO CONSIDER APPLICATION NO. 23-022 (AAR), AN APPLICATION BY HOLLAND & KNIGHT LLP ON BEHALF OF CROSSROADS R2G OWNER LLC. THE APPLICANT IS REQUESTING ARCHITECTURAL & AESTHETIC REVIEW FOR THE COMMISSION, PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A STAINLESS STEEL SCULPTURE BY ARTIST WENQIN CHEN TO FULFILL THE ART IN PUBLIC PLACES REQUIREMENT FOR A PROPERTY LOCATED AT 11601 OKEECHOBEE BOULEVARD.

Issue:

The Applicant is requesting Architectural & Aesthetic Approval for the commission, purchase and installation of an 11' 5" high, 4' 6" wide and 2' 9" deep stainless steel sculpture titled "Growing No. 3" by artist Wenqin Chen to fulfill the Art in Public Places requirement, for a property located at 11601 Okeechobee Boulevard.

The stainless steel sculpture will fulfill the public art requirement as part of Application No. 21-02 (SPM, AAR) approving the site plan modification to tear down the existing 42,834 sq. ft. Publix and 5,997 sq. ft. of adjacent retail shops to accommodate a new, more modern 55,454 sq. ft. Publix with enclosed loading dock at rear and covered pedestrian walkway along the front. The certified cost estimates for the project were stated as \$5,378,531 triggering the Village's Art in Public Places requirement for any private development whose one percent (1%) of total vertical construction costs is over \$25,000.00. The one percent (1%) amount required Art in Public Places installation for the Publix project is \$53,785.53.

The estimated amount to complete the commission and installation of the stainless steel sculpture titled "Growing No. 3" by artist Wenqin Chen is estimated at \$60,537.80. This project fulfills the Art in Public Places requirement outlined in Sec. 26-75.5. – Art in Public Places under the Village's Code of Ordinances.

Please refer to **Attachment A** for illustrations of the proposed public art acquisition, with sample images of artist's work and digital renderings in the proposed location.

The Public Art Advisory Board considered the application on August 14, 2023.

Recommended Action:

Staff is recommending Approval of Application No. 23-022 (AAR).

Initiator	Village Manager	Agenda Date	Village Council
Public Art Prof.	Approval	8-17-2023	Action

**Attachment A
Proposed Public Art Rendering**

Directly below is an image of the proposed sculpture.



Initiator	Village Manager	Agenda Date	Village Council
<u>Public Art Prof.</u>	<u>Approval</u>	<u>8-17-2023</u>	<u>Action</u>

**Attachment A Cont'd
Proposed Public Art Rendering**

Directly below are renderings of the proposed sculpture installed in its projected location.



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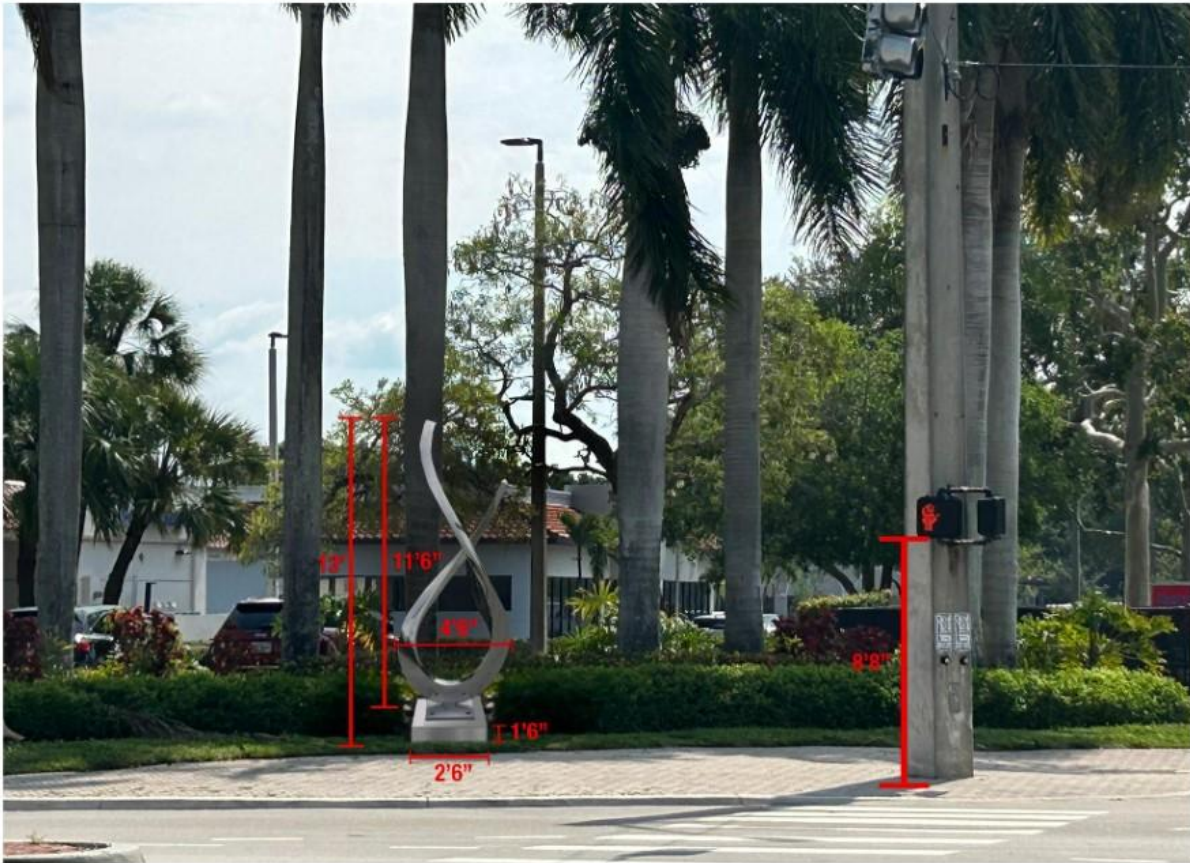
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**Attachment A Cont'd
Digital Renderings**

Directly below are digital renderings of the proposed sculpture with measurements.

Measurements

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**11'-5" ft H x 4'-6" W x 2'-9" D
13' H x 4'-6" W x 2'-9" D with concrete base**

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**Attachment A Cont'd
Estimated Budget**

Directly below is the estimated budget for the public art commission.

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Estimated Budget

1% for Public Art
\$53,785.53

Material, Fabrication, Finishing/Polishing, Artist Fee,
transportation: \$43,897.80

Concrete Slab: \$10,000.00

Installation: \$2,500.00

Required Lighting: \$2,000.00

Legal Costs, Permits: \$2,140.00

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Attachment A Cont'd Artist Information

Directly below is further information regarding artist Wenqin Chen.

Artist Information



Since 2000's, Wenqin Chen has used Chinese calligraphy, sculpture and installation to explore the relationship between life, art and their diversity. He created the work "Human Civilization, Spirit And Strength" (2004 MA final degree show). The beings of life, the analysis of our current living environment tensions and the wonder of the human experience have set Wenqin's intellectual inquiry. He explains: "When we recognize this resource of life, we will then cherish it." He also uses some readymade directly into his own artistic forms, through combination and installation showing its meaning. The representative art works of this period are: "Speciment" (2007), "Kang?!" (2007) and "Up Side Down" (2007) which won the runner-up of the annual competition at British Saatchi Gallery in 2009, etc.

While contemplating the origin of life, Wenqin Chen became fascinated and inspired by the forms of the human baby and created a series of works inspired by it. As an example, the installation of work "Your Turn"(2008), he explained: "The great life is growing in the competition," and the "Life Posture". During the following year (2009), he created the work of "Standing Egg" which realized his thought: "Can we then push the thinking of the origin of life forward? This thought advances our understanding of the life cycle and distills its meaning with the simplicity of an embryo." For all of time, the egg and the embryo are the most enduring and significant beings existents and are at the basis of perpetuating life itself. As a source of inspiration and research Wenqin Chen studied extensively the human body, various scientific journals and statements, real life examples, and countless images. Examples are illustrated in the series of works "Before A Baby Comes Out Of Its Mother's Body" (2011-2015) and "Beautiful Evolution" (2013-2016).

In analyzing the life body with its infinite possibilities, Wenqin Chen's subject of enquiry emerged. Of equal importance, he is passionate about the dialog created between the positive and negative spaces that surround his work. As a way of expressing "the energy of space," he emphasizes the momentum of the object to symbolize life's release or "birth," while extending the implied energy field to its largest range.

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