



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

September 19, 2025

Erie County Legislature
92 Franklin Street, 4th Floor
Buffalo, New York 14202

RE: Authorization to Contract Selected Artists

Dear Honorable Members:

Please find enclosed a memorandum and proposed resolution from the Department of Environment and Planning authorizing the execution of contracts with the artists selected by the Arts in Public Places Committee for the Small Works Acquisition Program described in the 2025 Master Public Art Plan approved by this body.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact Deputy Commissioner Thomas E. Baines at the Department of Environment and Planning. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Mark C. Poloncarz", with a long, sweeping underline.

Mark C. Poloncarz, Esq.
Erie County Executive

MCP/nb
Enclosure

cc: Daniel R. Castle, AICP, Commissioner

MEMORANDUM

To: Honorable Members of the Erie County Legislature
From: Department of Environment and Planning
Re: Authorization to Contract with Selected Artists
Date: September 19, 2025

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Erie County Legislature authorize the County Executive to enter into contracts with artists selected by the Arts in Public Places Committee, for the purpose of acquiring art for display and installation in county owned facilities.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed funding of not-to-exceed \$31,036.50 will come from the approved 2025 Erie County Capital Budget. Funding is available in A.24067.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Per Local Law 2023-4, the Department of Environment and Planning serves as coordinator for the Arts in Public Places Committee that selected artists/artwork to be installed in county owned property. This recommendation is effectively the recommendation of the Art in Public Places Committee as prescribed in Local Law 2023-4.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 2023, the Erie County Legislature introduced the Public Art Act of Erie County, providing a funding mechanism for public art related to certain Erie County capital construction projects. The County has allocated 1% of the cost of a building construction project, up to a maximum of \$10,000, for the acquisition, maintenance, and management of public art.

The Arts in Public Places Committee, which supports this program, is composed of five local volunteers who are experts in the fields of art, art history, architecture, or architectural history, and is responsible for commissioning, selecting, placing, and preserving works of art in various media. The Committee is tasked with preparing an Annual Master Plan to ensure a coherent acquisition program and implementation guidelines, which must be approved by the Erie County Legislature. In March 2025, the Erie County Legislature approved the Arts in Public Places 2025 Master Public Art Plan.

Lastly, the Department of Environment and Planning is tasked with coordinating and supporting the committee and contracting with the identified artists.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

In the event the proposed resolution is not passed, Erie County will not be able to carry out the initiative as prescribed in Local 2023-4 and the 2025 Erie County Public Art Master Plan approved by the Erie County Legislature. The intended outcomes of making art accessible to all

Erie County residents and visitors, fostering a sense of civic pride and community connection through art may not be realized.

STEPS FOLLOWING APPROVAL

Upon approval of the resolution, contracts will be prepared, and installation will begin thereafter.

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING**

RE: Authorization to Contract with Selected Artists

WHEREAS, in 2023, the Erie County Legislature introduced the Public Art Act of Erie County, providing a funding mechanism for public art related to certain Erie County capital construction projects, and;

WHEREAS, the County has allocated 1% of the cost of a building construction project, up to a maximum of \$10,000, for the acquisition, maintenance, and management of public art; and

WHEREAS, the Arts in Public Places Committee, which supports this program, is composed of five local volunteers who are experts in the fields of art, art history, architecture, or architectural history, and is responsible for commissioning, selecting, placing, and preserving works of art in various media; and

WHEREAS, the Committee prepared an Annual Master Plan in accordance with Local Law 2023-4 to ensure a coherent acquisition program and implementation guidelines, which has been approved by the Erie County Legislature; and

WHEREAS, a Call for Art was publicly released by Erie County on June 2, 2025, in accordance with the approved 2025 Annual Master Plan, inviting submissions for creative “Small Works” projects to be considered for funding; and

WHEREAS, the selection committee has thoroughly reviewed the submitted proposals in accordance with the guidelines and objectives outlined in the Call for Art and the committee has determined that small works proposed by seventeen (17) artists meet the criteria and align with the goals set forth by Erie County for public engagement, artistic expression, and community benefit; and

WHEREAS, Erie County desires to implement the approved 2025 Master Public Art Plan and fund the acquisition and installation of public art for display in Erie County property; and

WHEREAS, the County of Erie has allocated \$31,036.50 for the acquisition and installation of public art in the approved 2025 Capital Budget in account A.24067.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to enter into contract agreements with the below listed artists for the purpose of the acquisition and installation of public art in amounts not to exceed as follows:

Artist	Contract Amount Not to Exceed:	Capital Account #
Katherine E. Sehr	\$2,000	A.24067
Scott Olmstead	\$1,050	A.24067
Andy Krzystek	\$3,400	A.24067

Louis Rera (Lou Rera)	\$2,000	A.24067
Kayla DeLeon (Memento Media Company)	\$750	A.24067
Bethany Krull (Allied Art Studio LLC)	\$1,800	A.24067
Christina Francis (Fresh Batch Insights, LLC)	\$480	A.24067
Estate of Wilhelmina Godfrey (Benjamen's Works of Art, Inc. / Resource: Art)	\$4,650	A.24067
Doretha Edwards	\$1,200	A.24067
Linda S. Hall	\$2,000	A.24067
Max Collins (Maxwell Collins)	\$1,500	A.24067
Iris M. Kirkwood	\$675	A.24067
Adam Swift (Swift Visuals)	\$1,985	A.24067
Andrea Wenglowskyj (Andrea Wenglowskyj Photography)	\$450	A.24067
Julian Montague (Montague Projects)	\$2,000	A.24067
Monet Alyssa Kifner (Monet A. Kifner)	\$1,800	A.24067
Kelly Schnurr (Kelly Schnurr Studio LLC)	\$475	A.24067
<i>Display and Installation Contingency (10% of total cost)</i>	\$2,821.50	A.24067

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the source of these funds shall be \$31,036.50 available in the approved 2025 Erie County Capital Budget within SAP account A.24067; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Legislature be directed to send certified copies of this resolution to the County Executive's Office; Comptroller's Office; Division of Budget and Management; Department of Law and Department of Environment and Planning.