



COUNTY OF ERIE
MARK C. POLONCARZ
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

June 5, 2026

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

RE: Authorization to Contract with Selected Artist

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find a memorandum and proposed resolution from the Department of Environment and Planning submitting for authorization to execute a contract with the artist selected by the Art in Public Places Committee.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark C. Poloncarz".

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 Artist
Date: June 5, 2026

SUMMARY

It is recommended that the Erie County Legislature authorizes the County Executive to enter into contract with the artist selected by the Art in Public Places Committee, for the purpose of fabricating and installing art to Isle View Park.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed funding of not-to-exceed \$75,000 will come from the Department of Environment and Planning's (Fund 410, Funds Center 16200) Capital Project A.24067 – Public Art Fund. \$10,000 of the \$75,000 total is being paid for by a State Aid grant from Cornell University as part of the Submerge NY program, which was previously added to the fund following legislative approval of COMM. 3E-22.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

Per Local Law 2024-3, the Department of Environment and Planning serves as coordinator for the Art in Public Places Committee that identified locations and selected artists/artwork to be installed on county owned property. This recommendation is effectively the recommendation of the Art in Public Places Committee as prescribed in Local Law 2024-3.

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 Art 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, and hold a public hearing prior to the approval of the Annual Master Plan.

The 2026 Master Public Art Plan was approved by the Erie County Legislature on March 12, 2026.

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 2024-3. 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, a contract with the artist will be prepared, and installation/application will begin thereafter.

COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE REVIEW

The proposed legislation has been reviewed by the Comptroller's Office and is related to an authorized capital project for which there are sufficient appropriations located in A.24067 for the action proposed.

 5/15/26

Timothy Callan
Deputy Comptroller - Accounting
Erie County Comptroller's Office

A.24067

A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY:
DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND PLANNING

RE: Authorization to Contract with Selected Artist

WHEREAS, a call for artists was publicly released by Erie County on April 20, 2026, inviting submissions for creative projects to be considered for funding and development; and

WHEREAS, the Erie County Legislature approved and accepted \$10,000 in Submerge NY funding to commission and install artwork in Erie County to educate the public on flooding and resiliency matters via the Art In Public Places program; and

WHEREAS, the selection committee has thoroughly reviewed the submitted proposals in accordance with the guidelines and objectives outlined in the call for artists, and the committee has determined that the below listed project meets the criteria and aligns with the goals set forth by Erie County for public engagement, artistic expression, and community benefit.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Erie County Legislature hereby authorizes the County Executive or Deputy County Executive to enter into contract, easement and/or agreement with the selected artist, Will Quintana (contracting with, either, William Quintana or his Legba Graphics, Inc.), in an amount not to exceed a total of \$75,000 for the purpose of fabricating and installing the Oniare sculpture at Isle View Park, a public art location selected in the 2026 Master Public Art Plan; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the source of these funds shall be available in the Department of Environment and Planning's (Fund 410, Funds Center 16200) Capital Project A.24067 – Public Art Fund; 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, Department of Environment and Planning, Department of Law and Division of Budget and Management.

TIMOTHY CALLAN - COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE

PROPOSED RESOLUTIONS REQUIRING RULE 55

CONTRACT APPROVAL CHECKLIST
CONFIRMATION OF AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS IN CAPITAL PROJECTS


REQUESTING DEPARTMENT

COMPLETE ITEMS 1 THROUGH 5

1. CONTRACTOR'S NAME Will Quintana
2. AMOUNT OF CONTRACT \$ 75,000
3. PROJECT NUMBER A.24067 (Fund 410, Funds Center 162000)
4. PROJECT TITLE Art in Public Places Project
Isle View Park
5. DEPARTMENT CONTACT Funding questions: Zaque Evans
Letter pickup: Nancy Brown

COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE

COMPLETE ITEMS 6 AND 7

6. AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS \$ 366,456.54
7. PERFORMED BY 
- Date Sent to Comptroller's Office: May 14, 2026

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OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER REVIEW

DATE: 5/15/2026

PROJECT TITLE: A.24067 - 2024 Public Art Fund

1) IS THE REASON FOR THIS CONTRACT CONSISTENT WITH THE PURPOSE OF THE PROJECT: YES X NO

IF NO, RETURN THIS REQUEST TO THE DEPARTMENT
IF YES, COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING VERIFICATION

2) PROJECT AVAILABLE APPROPRIATION

Total Project Revenues	\$	205,662.46
Total Project Appropriations	\$	572,119.00
Less: Total Expenditure To Date	\$	205,662.46
Less: Total Commitments	\$	-
Available Appropriations As Of Date Of Request	\$	366,456.54
Less: Contract Amount	\$	75,000.00
Net Available Appropriations	\$	291,456.54

Comments: there is currently no cash within the project. This project is funded as a PAY-AS-YOU-GO.

Request Approved:

T. C. C.

Request Denied:

Date:

5/15/26

Project Budget Consumption

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Variable Characteristics
 Fund: 410 Bid. and Improvement
 Funds Center: 2024 Public Art Fund
 Funded Program: A.24057
 Fiscal Year: 2024

Commitment Item	Original Budget	Adjustments	Current Budget	Commitment	Actuals
409010 State Aid - Other	10,000.00	10,000.00	10,000.00		285,662.46
486000 Incurred Rev Subsidy	153,000.00	405,119.00	562,119.00		205,662.46
Revenue	153,000.00	415,119.00	572,119.00		205,662.46
516020 Pro Ser Cut and Fees	153,000.00	419,119.00	572,119.00		205,662.46
CAPITALPROJECTS Capital Project Exp	153,000.00	419,119.00	572,119.00		205,662.46
Expense	153,000.00	419,119.00	572,119.00		205,662.46
Commitment Item					

Capital Trial Balance

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Date Period: 05/15/2024 Client: 100 Page: 2 of 2
 Project (9): A.24057
 Fiscal Year: 2024
 Method: 1 to 5
 Fund(s): 400, 599
 Capital Trial Balance
 2024 Public Art Fund

Account	Rev. Yr.	YTD Debit	YTD Credit	End Bal
517000 Cash Control Account	5,344.50	5,344.50		5,344.50
200000 Account Payable Control Acct	5,344.50	5,344.50		5,344.50
200200 GR/TA Account				
309999 Unassigned/Designated Fund Balance	5,344.50	16,033.50		10,689.00
Balance Sheet				
486000 Intergov Revenue Subsidy	205,317.96			205,317.96
Revenues	205,662.46			205,662.46
516020 Professional Service Contracts and Fees	205,662.46			205,662.46
Expenses	205,662.46			205,662.46
Total		16,033.50	16,033.50	

- Reports**
 Capital Trial Balance
 Debt Trial Balance
 CBDC Trial Balance
 Project Comparison Debt Trial Balance

- Variable Characteristics**
 Funded Program
 Fund

- Variable Fund:**
 ZSPZS1-001 Selection 0004
 410 Bid. and Improvement