



COUNTY OF ERIE

MARK C. POLONCARZ

COUNTY EXECUTIVE

October 2, 2026

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

RE: Authorization to Contract with Selected Art In Public Places Artists

Dear Honorable Members:

Enclosed please find 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 Major Works Program and Small Works Acquisition Program described in the 2026 Master Public Art Plan, previously approved by this body on March 12, 2026.

Should your Honorable Body require further information, I encourage you to contact our Assistant Commissioner for Strategic Initiatives & Economic Development, Zaque Evans. Thank you for your consideration on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "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 Art In Public Places Artists
Date: October 2, 2026

SUMMARY

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

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The proposed funding of not-to-exceed \$75,000. for the Major Works Program and \$33,676.50 for the Small Works Program, a total of \$108,676.50 will come from the approved 2026 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 Art 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 \$10,000.00 per capital project, for the acquisition, maintenance, and management of public art at Erie County facilities.

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. On March 12, 2026, the Erie County Legislature approved the Art in Public Places 2026 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 fail to carry out the Art In Public Places initiative, fail to comply with Local Law 2023-4, and fail to comply with the 2026 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 (“the 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 for 2026, in accordance with Local Law 2023-4 to ensure a coherent acquisition program and implementation guidelines, which was approved by the Erie County Legislature on March 12, 2026; and

WHEREAS, a Call for Artists was publicly released by Erie County on April 20, 2026, and an updated Call for Artists was re-released on May 18, 2026, inviting submissions for creative “Major Works” projects to be considered for funding and development; and

WHEREAS, a separate Call for Art was publicly released by Erie County on July 20, 2026, in accordance with the approved 2026 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 for the Major Works and Small Works Programs and in accordance with the guidelines and objectives outlined in the respective calls, the committee has determined that the projects listed below meet the criteria and align with the program 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, Randy Fernando, either directly or through an entity to be established by and controlled by him, for the purposes of marketing and managing his artwork, in an amount not to exceed a total of \$75,000 for the purpose of fabricating and installing the PRISM BLOOM sculpture at the Buffalo and Erie County Botanical Gardens, a public art location selected as a Major Works

location in the 2026 Master Public Art Plan; and be it further

RESOLVED, that authorization is hereby given to 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 as part of the Small Work Program detailed in the 2026 Master Public Art Plan, in amounts not to exceed as follows:

Artist	Contract Amount Not to Exceed:	Capital Account #
Ann E. Peterson (Mundo Images)	\$595	A.24067
Catherine Shuman Miller	\$1,850	A.24067
Christopher Banks	\$500	A.24067
Christopher Fritton	\$4,000	A.24067
Dennis A. Bertram (Bertram Art)	\$1,250	A.24067
Dianne Baker	\$325	A.24067
Eugene Sims	\$2,000	A.24067
Gerald C. Mead Jr.	\$495	A.24067
Janice M. Abbarno	\$2,100	A.24067
Joseph E. Harvey	\$2,250	A.24067
Kathleen Sherin (Sherin / Prints)	\$3,500	A.24067
Mackenzie Laike Palermo	\$1,200	A.24067
Larry Dalian Sheffield	\$2,000	A.24067
Lauren Mary Barnett	\$200	A.24067
Martha E. Kutas (Marty Kutas Watercolors)	\$850	A.24067
Quincy Koczka (QK Construction Arts LLC)	\$1,000	A.24067
Sarah Campbell	\$1,400	A.24067
Scott Balzer	\$600	A.24067
Sonya A. Cardwell	\$2,000	A.24067
Teri Jo Ritz	\$700	A.24067
Valerie Vullo-Saenger (Valerie Vullo Fine Art LLC)	\$1,800	A.24067
<i>Display and Installation Contingency (10% of total cost)</i>	\$3,061.50	A.24067

and be it further

RESOLVED, that the source of these funds shall be \$75,000 for the Major Works Program and \$33,676.50 for the Small Works Program, a total of \$108,676.50 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 source of these funds shall be \$33,676.50 available in the approved 2026 Erie County Capital Budget within SAP account A.24067; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the certified copies of this resolution be sent to the Erie County Executive's Office, Comptroller's Office, Department of Law, Division of Budget and Management, and Department of Environment and Planning.