



Blending Art and Technology; Introducing “Sabal Sentinels” ***A Monumental Sculpture and a State of the Art H.D. Digital Sign*** ***Combined to Create the Best of Both Worlds***

The A.E. Backus Museum is poised to begin a long anticipated expansion.

We have submitted our expansion plans for review by City staff.

City staff and the legal department are currently working on modifications to the Museum’s lease for 2.1 acres of park land.

With the City’s continued collaboration, we plan to break ground on a physical expansion and reimagining in April of 2016. This date is required by our St. Lucie County Tourism Development Grant.

The Museum’s plans include:

- A 2,250 sq. ft. exhibition gallery for the display of the Museum’s collection of A.E. Backus paintings.
- Additional handicapped accessible restroom facilities to comply with current ADA requirements.
- A dedicated exhibition area for the display of paintings by the Florida Highwaymen and to tell their story.
- A fire safety sprinkler system throughout the entire building.
- Exterior Mural Plaza: Featuring seven large murals painted on the Museum’s east and north walls. It will offer unencumbered 24 hour a day public access to fine art and free Wi-Fi for park visitors.
- Covered Entry Court: Featuring four architecturally engineered tensile structures, it will serve as an event venue, outdoor classroom and open-air community gathering place.
- Park Restoration and Reimagining: Create a place for recreation, exploration and conversation by resculpting the flattened topography to mirror the rippling bottom of the lagoon. Install 50,000 sq. ft. of Bahia sod and new native plantings and flowering trees. Create a more visitor friendly environment, drawing visitors into the center of the park and eventually to the Indian River Lagoon.
- Sculpture in the Park: Strategic positioning of sculpture within the park without breaking up the green space or inhibiting recreational use.

Perspective Drawings of Museum's Covered South Entry Court and North East Mural Plaza



1 Backus Entry Court - PHASE I

Includes (1) Architectural Fascade Structure
 "Silver Current" Concrete Paving w/Integral Color
 Artistic Entry Wall Featuring Underlay Glass to Cover Museum
 Outdoor Seating Featuring New Genre of Instrumental Music each Week
 Informational Panels of Upcoming Events w/Hours of Operation
 Seating for Art Classes and Outdoor Events
 Entry Telephone w/Digital Road Sign for visitors on Sign
 Expansion of Existing Museum Exhibit Building



2 Landscape Mural Plaza - PHASE I

Featuring a 3.0 yr. Revolving Exterior Exhibit
 of Florida Landscape Subjects Provided on 4' x 8' Vertical Mural Panels
 Parking Court Benches to be used for Mural & River Viewing
 "Silver Current" Concrete Paving w/Integral Color
 Free WiFi Provided for Public Use
 Night Lighting for Featured Murals



Drawn by
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 LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE CONSULTANTS
 DATE: MAY 31, 2015

Why Sabal Palms and Not Royal Palms?

- The Sabal Palm was designated as the Florida's State Tree in 1970
- The Sabal Palm grows wild along the coast from North Carolina all the way south into the Caribbean.
- Sabal Palms are the trees that line the River Walk and the entrance leading into Veterans Park.
- Sabal Palms define the native coastal landscape
- Sabal Palms play an iconic role in the local coastal and inland scenes painted by A.E. Backus and the Florida Highwaymen.



Picking Fruit at Turnbull Hammock, A.E. Backus, Circa 1946



Bluster Day by A.E. Backus, Circa 1955



Sabal Palm Hammock by A.E. Backus, Circa 1958

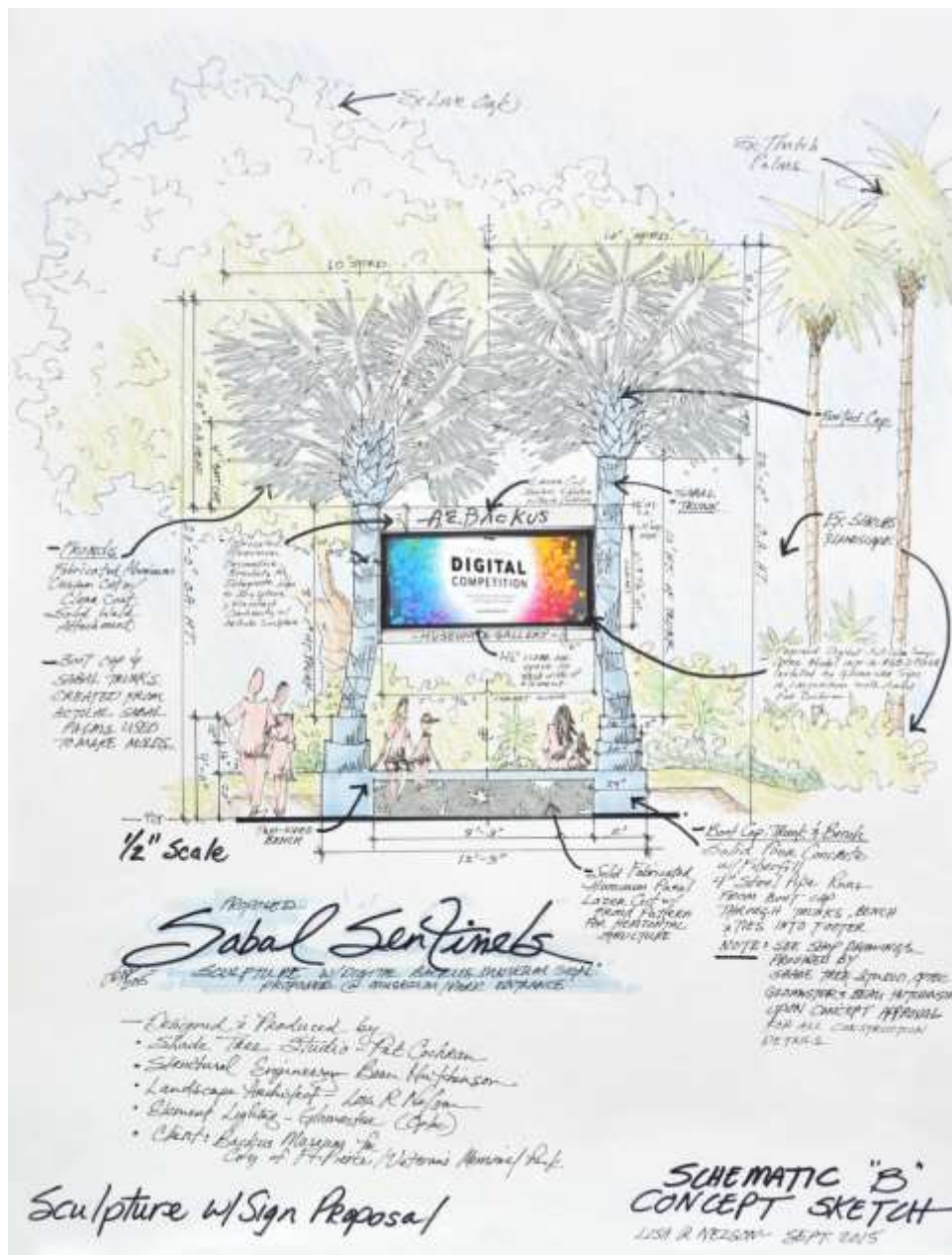


Moonlit Palms by R.A. McLendon, Dated 1978

But Wait, There's More!

Why Not Integrate Art and Messaging to Create the Best of Both Worlds?
Let's Create Something Totally Unique and Give Them Something to Talk About.

The Museum proposes to use the life size sculpture, Sabal Sentinels, to suspend a state of the art, H.D. Digital Sign, capable of displaying changing images of artwork and public messaging. This sign will be a technological step above the current digital signage found at the Museum Pointe Park or at the Fenn Center. Fully programmable, it will offer gentle transitions between images and community messages. The two combined elements will create a landmark for the Veteran's Park entrance and access to the Riverwalk promenade as well as a place mark for creativity for the Museum and for the City itself. Once installed, this unique sculpture will become a destination for residents and visitors alike. It will be totally unique and an asset to the cultural profile of the City.



Specific Design Requirements for the Sabal Sentinels and the Sign Project

- Sculpture and sign placement complies with City code requiring a 15' site triangle.
- Design Requirements of the sculpture, to be compatible with the actual size of the real Sabal Palms in the park, dictates that the taller of the two trees be 22' tall. Actual palms being used to create the molds for the sculpture. The sculptures trunks will have an organic feel to them in shape and texture, featuring a naturalistic curve and irregularities. The boot will also be cast from an actual tree.



Prototype Aluminum Palm Frond; Design Phase

- Each aluminum palm frond is individually hand crafted using a laser cutter to create a natural variety of shapes and sizes. Once completed, the fronds will be securely bolted to the boot structure per engineers specifications. While firmly attached to the base, the fronds tips will still be able to flutter in the breeze.

- Placement of the digital component within the sculpture, allowing for unfettered use of the integral seating created between the two trees, leaves the project marginally out of code with a finished height of 11'. Code currently calls for a maximum sign height of 10'.
- The hand-forged aluminum frame, which secures and protects the digital screen, would have a finished height of 12'.
- Placement of the sculpture base and bench will be adjacent to the existing brick paver sidewalk to allow for unfettered 360° access for pedestrians and in compliance with ADA requirements.
- Authorizing a variance for the requested sign placement within the sculptural context supports the artistic integrity of the sculpture and allows passing motorists an unobstructed view of the sign, even if people are sitting on the bench. The proposed placement of the digital component balances the numerous design considerations presented by a project of this scope and complexity.

The Museum's mission is to promote and present arts within the community and to perpetuate the artistic and humanitarian legacy of A.E. "Bean" Backus.

