



**SOUTHEAST CPAC DEERWOOD CHILDREN'S ROTARY PARK SCULPTURAL SEATING
ART SELECTION PANEL**

Meeting Minutes – PENDING APPROVAL

April 30, 2025 / 1:30PM - 3PM

**Jessie Ball DuPont Center, 40 E. Adams Street Jacksonville, FL 32202
Jessie Ball DuPont Fund Suite 300 / Large Conference Room inside suite**

ZOOM: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/4573864081?omn=83919649110> Meeting ID: 457 386 4081

Art Selection Panel: Gigi Ackerman Schwartz (Chair), Laurie Hoppock, Matthew Patterson, Carol D'Onofrio, Magnus Wallen (COJ Division of Risk and Insurance Management-CAO Designee), Becca Wright (COJ Park Planning Project Coordinator-Site Representative)

Other guests: Kat Wright, Public Art Director, Jennifer Clements, Consultant

IMPORTANT NOTE: An in-person quorum of 50% +1 is required to take any action on motions. The work of an Art in Public Places Art Selection Panel for the City of Jacksonville requires motions be made in order for public art projects to move forward.

WELCOME, CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

Gigi Ackerman Schwartz

Chair called the meeting to order at 1:48 p.m.

Attendance:

Gigi Ackerman Schwartz (Chair)	Y	Carol D'Onofrio	Y
Laurie Hoppock	Y	Magnus Wallen	Y
Matthew Patterson	Y	Becca Wright	Y

A quorum was achieved to proceed with today's business.

STATED PURPOSE OF THE MEETING

This Art Selection Panel is gathered today to review a select group of invitational artists who have expressed interest in the commission for the Sculptural Benches at the Deerwood Children's Rotary Park as part of the CPAC (Community Planning Advisory Committee) Public Art Initiative. They are local working professional artists who have provided their qualifications to this Artwork Selection Panel (ASP) as such.

SUNSHINE LAW / CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Gigi Ackerman Schwartz

Before we begin, this meeting is conducted in compliance with Sunshine and Public Records Laws. In practice, this means that all communications and records related to City business are for the benefit of the public; and therefore, must be accessible and/or made available upon request.



The Sunshine Law applies when two or more individuals on the same board or committee discuss an issue that could come before their board or committee. Under Sunshine Law, any communication with another member regarding issues that may come before your board or committee must occur only at a meeting noticed to the public. This means that members of the Art Selection Panel cannot discuss outside of noticed meetings any issues the panel may potentially consider. At this time, I'd like to ask if any Panelist has had any discussion with another Panelist regarding the Artist Selection?

- None reported.

Thank you. Please remember not to have written or verbal communication with any other panelist throughout this process.

As a panelist, you must extend a vote and not abstain from voting on any one applicant unless you have a conflict of interest with them. The artists in consideration for this project are Mico Fuentes, Jenny Hager, Main Made Studios, and d. lance vickery.

It is a conflict of interest for a panelist to participate in a decision-making process if they may obtain a financial interest or benefit from it, either for themselves or those who have family or business ties, during their tenure or for one year thereafter. Any potential conflict of interest must be stated for the record. With that in mind, I'd like to ask if any panelist has a potential conflict of interest with any one of the artists in consideration for the Sculptural Benches at the Deerwood Children's Rotary Park. If so, please take this opportunity to state with whom and what the nature of the conflict to recuse yourself from voting for that applicant:

- None reported.

PUBLIC COMMENT (3 Minutes)

Gigi Ackerman Schwartz

No public comment was received.

PRESENTATION OF ARTISTS/DISCUSSION

Kat Wright

Art in Public Places (APP) Staff provided an overview of the CPAC Public Art Initiative, explaining that it provides an opportunity to place local art in each CPAC. She noted that Staff worked extensively with COJ Parks, Recreation & Community Services to determine appropriate art forms for each location. Each CPAC was surveyed for input, and the Southeast (SE) CPAC voted for sculptural benches at Deerwood Children's Rotary Park.

Key considerations for the project were presented:

- Artists will develop concepts through collaboration with APP Staff and community input
- Structural elements may be affected by tariffs and rising costs, emphasizing the need to begin fabrication promptly to meet a September 30th deadline



- The ASP may reconvene once or twice during this process moving forward

Staff reviewed the evaluation and scoring methodology:

- Yes = 3 points
- Maybe = 2 points
- No = 0 points

She clarified that the examples provided are not necessarily recommendations for final products but examples of work within the stated budget.

Staff described the Deerwood Children's Rotary Park location as nicely landscaped with great play area, but lacking adequate seating. The selected artist will make a site visit to determine optimal bench placement.

Artists Presented:

1. Mico Fuentes

- Shared several indoor installation examples (only artist who shared indoor examples)
- Works frequently as an assistant with Jim Benedict Studios
- "Ready for Flight" example was above the stated budget by approximately \$10,000

2. Jenny Hager

- Department chair and professor at UNF
- Examples included powder-coated steel sculptural bench
- "Urban Flora" bench example is part of the city's public art collection and has proven highly durable
- "Butterfly Bench" example from Jacksonville Zoo was presented
- The ASP asked about fabrication versus design responsibilities; Staff noted this information was limited to what was provided in the artist's CV

3. Main Made Studios

- David Main leads this studio, which specializes in architectural fabrication
- Former student of Jenny Hager and d. lance vickery
- Examples included both independent work and collaborative fabrication projects



- Featured examples from Daisy Stocking Park in Daytona Beach that were designed and fabricated by Main Made Studios

4. d. lance vickery

- Professor at UNF
- Examples included "Air" and "Fire" bike racks (part of DIA Urban Arts program in collaboration with APP)
- "Little Gymnast" example from Kentucky
- "SING" sculpture at JCC (over \$25,000 budget), predominantly fabricated by vickery but a joint project with Jenny Hager
- "Reawakening" sculpture in Murray Hill (no longer on view, but was within budget)

SCORING

Kat Wright

After presentations, ASP members submitted their individual scores for each artist. The scores were tallied as follows:

- Mico Fuentes: 54 points
- **Jenny Hager: 66 points**
- Main Made Studios: 64 points
- d. lance vickery: 64 points

PANEL DISCUSSION

All panel members agreed that Jenny Hager was the clear winner based on scores. Discussion followed to determine the alternate between Main Made Studios and d. lance vickery, who tied with 64 points each.

Key points from the discussion:

- An ASP member noted he had looked at Main Made's portfolio online and was impressed by their professional website and diverse client base across residential, commercial, and artistic projects
- Staff cautioned against placing too much emphasis on website quality as some artists do not have an active website and/or may show examples that are well over project budget
- The ASP noted Main Made had youthful examples appropriate for the location



- An ASP member expressed preference for Main Made but raised a question about Vickery and Hager being married and whether that might affect anything
- Staff noted that they are individual candidates for this commission as some examples Hager designed and fabricated and vice versa
- Another ASP member observed that he felt like Main Made stood alone as an independent entity, while Hager and Vickery's work seemed more interconnected

ACTION ITEMS - VOTING, SELECTED ARTIST & ALTERNATE

Gigi Ackerman Schwartz

First Motion for Alternate Selection: Magnus Wallen moved to nominate **Main Made Studios** as the alternate. Second: Laurie Hoppock

Gigi Ackerman Schwartz (Chair)	Y		Carol D'Onofrio	Y
Laurie Hoppock	Y		Magnus Wallen	Y
Matthew Patterson	Y		Becca Wright	Y

The motion passed unanimously

Second Motion: Chair Ackerman Schwartz then made a motion to select **Jenny Hager** as the primary artist with **Main Made Studios** as the alternate. Second: Magnus Wallen.

Gigi Ackerman Schwartz (Chair)	Y		Carol D'Onofrio	Y
Laurie Hoppock	Y		Magnus Wallen	Y
Matthew Patterson	Y		Becca Wright	Y

The motion passed unanimously

Final Motion: The Sculptural Benches at Deerwood Children's Rotary Park Art Selection Panel approves **Jenny Hager** to enter into an agreement with the Cultural Council of Greater



Jacksonville for the project; pending final approval by the Art in Public Places Committee. Should they decline or are not able to fulfill their duties under the agreement, **Main Made Studios** is approved as the alternate pending final approval by the Art in Public Places Committee. Moved by Chair Ackerman Schwartz. Seconded by Magnus Wallen.

Gigi Ackerman Schwartz (Chair)	Y		Carol D'Onofrio	Y
Laurie Hoppock	Y		Magnus Wallen	Y
Matthew Patterson	Y		Becca Wright	Y

The motion was approved as presented.

NEXT STEPS

Kat Wright

Staff briefly outlined next steps in the process:

- The selected artist will be contacted immediately with an offer
- The selection will be presented to the APP committee for approval
- Once approved, a contract will be executed
- The artist will have approximately 6-8 weeks to complete a design
- Fabrication and installation will require approximately 2+ months
- All work must be completed by September 30, 2025

No further questions or comments were raised, and the ASP was thanked for their time as volunteers.

ADJOURNMENT

Gigi Ackerman Schwartz

The meeting was adjourned at 2:32 p.m.