



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville's Art in Public Places Projects Recognized by Florida Association of Public Art Professionals

Jacksonville, Fla. – July 1, 2025 – The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville (CCGJ) announced today four projects commissioned by its Art in Public Places (APP) Program were recognized among 44 as exemplary public art projects that demonstrate excellence and trends in the field by the Florida Association of Public Art Professionals (FAPAP) during the 2025 State Conference in Tampa, FL.

As the City of Jacksonville's legislated Local Arts Agency, the CCGJ champions public art as a catalyst for unique partnerships to shape Jacksonville's ever evolving public art landscape. By working with the community to envision what may be possible, the program has been able to introduce innovative mediums in the pursuit of providing access to a variety of artists and innovative experiences that enhance property values, public safety, and community belonging. The four projects receiving recognition from FAPAP are:

- The first sculptural lighting activation under a state-owned underpass entitled *Jacksonville Spectrum* by internationally renowned artist, Bill FitzGibbons. The activation was in tandem with structural improvements to the Roosevelt/Edgewood underpass by the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT), which is also enhanced with the mural, *Birds on 17* by David Nackashi. The partnership was the first for FDOT's regional office encouraging a greater understanding by both entities in the marriage of innovation and regulation and was the only FAPAP project honored that merged two different mediums for maximum impact.
- *Calling it Done* by Brian Owens serves as the centerpiece for LaVilla's Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing Park. The cast stone and bronze sculpture pays tribute to Jacksonville natives James Weldon and J. Rosamond Johnson, whose hymn is widely known as the Black National Anthem.
- The program commissioned design and production agency, The Castano Group, to pioneer a digital projection mapping project at a community center outside the downtown core. *Legends*, sited on the façade of the Legends Center created an immersive experience by blending historical imagery with dynamic motion and abstract animation, creating a seamless fusion of photography and animated elements imparting a cultural amenity exclusively in Northwest Jacksonville.
- *On Allison's Wings*, created by Main Made Studios for Stockton Park, repurposes a pedestal with an abstract ballerina to celebrate the life of Allison Brundick Haramis and the nonprofit created in her honor, Angels for Allison.

“Public art drives cultural tourism, fuels economic growth and strengthens neighborhood vitality — all of which contribute to Jacksonville’s creative economy,” said Diana Donovan, Executive Director of the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville. “These projects exemplify how the Cultural Council strategically leverages partnerships and talent to transform spaces into meaningful investments. We’re proud to see these four Art in Public Places Program projects recognized at the state level on behalf of the City of Jacksonville. Thank you to our elected officials, all the artists, small businesses, regional partners, volunteer panelists and community members. Your vision and collaboration, together with expertise in administration by our APP Public Art Director Kat Wright, brought these works to life.”

Founded in 1997, Florida Association of Public Art Professionals is dedicated to the development, championship, and education of the public art field in the State of Florida, as well as to promote national best practices in the administration of public art programs for individuals, institutions, governments and businesses involved in all aspects of public art. APP Public Art Director, Kat Wright, submitted four public art projects completed in 2024 for consideration, all of which were all highlighted at the conference’s “Year in Review” as the best of Florida’s public art.

To learn more about how the APP program is elevating the profile of public art in Jacksonville, visit culturalcouncil.org.

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About the Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville:

The Cultural Council of Greater Jacksonville aims to enrich life in Northeast Florida by investing in Arts and Culture. Founded more than 50 years ago, the Cultural Council operates as a private, not-for-profit, 501(c)(3) organization and is designated as the official Local Arts Agency (LAA) by ordinance for the City of Jacksonville. It is governed by a volunteer board of directors and provides a range of services to ignite the creative economy and to address the ever-changing needs of the arts and cultural sector and broader community. Learn more at culturalcouncil.org.