



== CITY OF ==

NEWPORT BEACH

PB&R Commission Staff Report

Agenda Item VII-B
August 4, 2026

TO: Parks, Beaches & Recreation Commission

FROM: Justin Schmillen, Recreation & Senior Services Director
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TITLE: Permanent Placement of Newport Beach Arts Commission Sculpture
at Civic Center Park

RECOMMENDATION:

City staff recommend that the Parks, Beaches and Recreation (PB&R) Commission approve the Newport Beach City Arts Commission's recommendation to permanently place the sculpture, *Chairman of the Board*, in its current location at Civic Center Park.

DISCUSSION:

Staff received a request from the City Arts Commission (CAC) to keep the sculpture, *Chairman of the Board*, in Civic Center Park on a permanent basis. The CAC acts in an advisory capacity to the City Council on all matters pertaining to artistic, aesthetic, historical and cultural aspects of the City.

Staff reviewed the request in accordance with Council Policy I-11, Acquisition of Art by the City of Newport Beach, which requires the CAC to advise the City Council on art placement "in conjunction with the City commission, committee, board and/or department which has responsibility for planning or maintaining the proposed location." As Civic Center Park falls under the Parks, Beaches and Recreation (PB&R) Commission's purview, PB&R's site approval is required before this item proceeds to City Council for final action.

If approved by PB&R, staff will bring the CAC's recommendation to City Council to approve accepting this piece into the City's art inventory and its placement in Civic Center Park.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS:

Chairman of the Board will be donated to the City at no cost. Annual maintenance cost estimate is \$1,200 to be expensed from the Cultural Arts Maintenance and Repair account in the Library Services Department, 01060603-851037.

BACKGROUND:

**Permanent Placement of Newport Beach Arts Commission Sculpture
at Civic Center Park**

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In August 2013, the Newport Beach City Council authorized the CAC and City staff to implement a temporary, rotating sculpture exhibit in Civic Center Park of up to ten pieces. Each selected sculpture for the Sculpture Exhibition is on loan to the City for three years; the City installs each piece and the artists are responsible for maintenance and repairs. Since 2014, there have been ten installation phases. *Chairman of the Board* by artist Steven Rieman was part of Phase IV of the Sculpture Exhibition installed in June 2019.

Artist Rieman donated the sculpture to the City, and the Art in Public Places Ad Hoc subcommittee at the time recommended the CAC accept the piece. The Art in Public Places Ad Hoc Subcommittee proposed moving the work from Civic Center Park to Marina Park at the November 12, 2020, regular CAC meeting, but that recommendation was rejected by the CAC.

Staff returned at the May 13, 2021, CAC meeting and recommended leaving *Chairman of the Board* in its current spot at Civic Center Park until another location could be determined. The CAC voted to accept that recommendation and deferred choosing a spot until a later date.

Without a recommendation for placement, staff were unable to go to City Council to ask them to accept this piece into the art inventory.

Artist Rieman passed away in 2022. *Chairman of the Board* has remained at Civic Center Park. The current Art in Public Places Ad Hoc Subcommittee has recommended formally and permanently placing *Chairman of the Board* at Civic Center Park in its current location. The CAC approved this recommendation at their June 11, 2026, meeting.

NOTICING:

All residents within 500 feet of the proposed location and the agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the PB&R Commission considers the item).

ATTACHMENTS:

Attachment A – Photo of *Chairman of the Board* in its current location at Civic Center Park

Attachment B – Aerial photo of proposed permanent location for *Chairman of the Board*