



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH CITY ARTS COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

May 14, 2026
Agenda Item No. 6

TO: CITY ARTS COMMISSION

FROM: Library Services Department
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PREPARED BY: Rebecca Lightfoot, Library Services Manager

TITLE: *Seagulls in Flight* Recast

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend that the City Arts Commission review and discuss the Art in Public Places Ad Hoc Subcommittee's recommendation to allocate funds to recast *Seagulls in Flight* in bronze and store the original piece to prevent further damage. Staff are requesting approval to move forward with either recasting or repairing the piece.

DISCUSSION:

On August 22, 1960, the Newport Beach City Council approved placed of a statue to adorn the approach of the Corona del Mar (CdM) Branch. The Friends of the Library donated the sculpture, entitled *Seagulls in Flight*, in honor of Miss Molly McClintock, a local teen who was tragically killed in an automobile accident on April 14, 1960. The statue, sculpted by Mr. and Mrs. Malcolm Cameron of Bonsall, bears the inscription "To the Youth of Corona del Mar in memory of Molly McClintock".

The piece required restoration in 2015, which the City Arts Commission approved. During the CdM Branch closure and rebuild project, the sculpture was stored and was returned to the location when the new branch opened to the public in 2019.

Staff obtained quotes from two different art restoration contractors, which the Art in Public Places Ad Hoc Subcommittee reviewed. The piece is made of stone with internal rebar, which is rusting, causing expansion which creates cracks and separation in the stone exterior. Restoration ArTechs Inc. submitted a proposal for the repair and structural stabilization on the piece at a cost of \$8,105.00. The proposed treatment is a conservation-grade attempt to slow the process, not eliminate it. Ongoing restoration and repair will be needed for the duration of the sculpture's lifetime.

The second quote received from Gerard Basil Studio is for a bronze recast of the piece. The Art in Public Places Ad Hoc Subcommittee recommends that rather than continuing to repair the piece, Gerard Basil Studio be hired to recreate the sculpture in bronze. The bronze replica would be finished so the color matches the original work. The original piece would then be moved into storage.

At the April 9, 2026, City Arts Commission meeting, the Commission asked staff for more information regarding the annual cost of maintaining the piece if it were recast in bronze, as well as the cost of

recreating the piece out of stone. Staff obtained quotes for recreating the piece out of stone that ranged from \$14,000 to \$17,000, depending on the material. Annual maintenance costs for the bronze sculpture are estimated at \$1,000.

Based on the additional information, the Ad Hoc Subcommittee stands by their recommendation to recast the piece in bronze and move the original sculpture into storage.

If recasting is approved, \$7,580.00 would be expensed out of the Cultural Art's Maintenance and Repair budget to pay for the piece to be recast by Gerard Basil Studio. Annual maintenance costs would be expensed out of the same Maintenance and Repair budget.

If the City Arts Commission approves repairing the work, \$8,105.00 will be expensed out of the Cultural Art's Maintenance and Repair budget.

NOTICING:

This agenda item has been noticed according to the Brown Act (72 hours in advance of the meeting at which the City Arts Commission considers the item).