



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH CITY ARTS COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

April 9, 2026
Agenda Item No. 4

TO: CITY ARTS COMMISSION

FROM: Library Services Department
Melissa Hartson, Library Services Director
(949) 717-3801, mhartson@newportbeachca.gov

PREPARED BY: Rebecca Lightfoot, Library Services Manager

TITLE: *Seagulls in Flight* Recast

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommend that the City Arts Commission discuss and approve the Art in Public Places Ad Hoc Subcommittee's recommendation to allocate funds to recast *Seagulls in Flight* in bronze and put the original piece in storage to prevent further damage.

DISCUSSION:

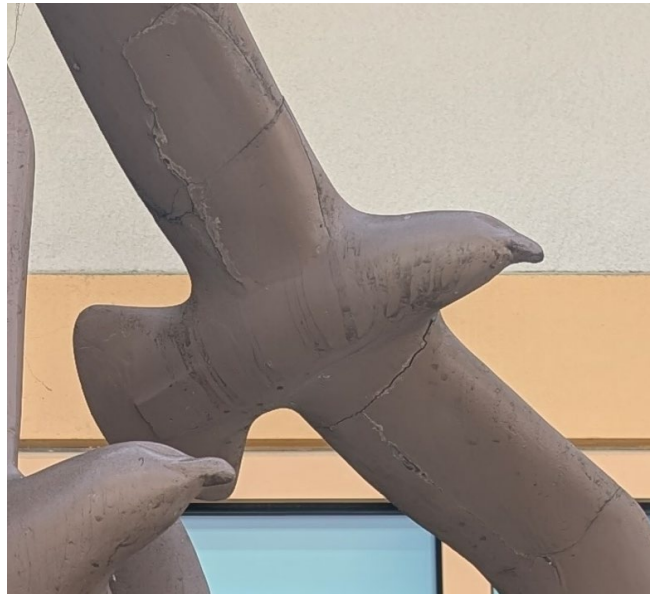


Photo of sculpture after 2015 restoration

On August 22, 1960, the Newport Beach City Council approved placement 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 Arts Commission approved and paid for. 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.



Photos of sculpture in its current state with a close-up of the damaged areas

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 original piece, Gerard Basil Studio should 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.

If 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.

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).