



CITY OF NEWPORT BEACH CITY ARTS COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

July 9, 2026
Agenda Item No. 5

TO: CITY ARTS COMMISSION

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

TITLE: Request to the Newport Beach Arts Foundation to Purchase a Sculpture
entitled *The Memory of Sailing*

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends the City Arts Commission review, discuss, and decide whether to approve or to not approve the Art in Public Places Ad Hoc Subcommittee's recommendation to formally ask the Newport Beach Arts Foundation to purchase *The Memory of Sailing*.

DISCUSSION:

Artist Zan Knecht has asked for the City Arts Commission to consider purchasing a sculpture that was on display in the Civic Center Sculpture Exhibition entitled *The Memory of Sailing*. The sculpture was part of Phase VIII and was recently deinstalled. Artist Knecht submitted an Application for Review and Consideration of Acquisition of Art by the City of Newport Beach. The Art in Public Places Ad Hoc Subcommittee reviewed the application and would like to move forward with acquiring the piece. To pay the \$14,000 asking price, the Ad Hoc Subcommittee is requesting the City Arts Commission formally ask the Newport Beach Arts Foundation to privately pay for the work and donate it to the City.

If the City Arts Commission approves the Ad Hoc Subcommittee's recommendation, a memo detailing the request will be sent to the Arts Foundation. If the Arts Foundation accepts the request, the Ad Hoc Subcommittee would subsequently bring a recommendation for site placement to the City Arts Commission to approve. In accordance with City Council Policy I-11 *Acquisition of Art by the City of Newport Beach*, the City Arts Commission would "advise the City Council regarding appropriate City property...for display of [the piece], in conjunction with the City commission, committee, board and/or department which has responsibility for planning or maintaining the proposed location". Staff will then seek City Council approval to accept the piece into the City's art collection.

FUNDING REQUIREMENTS:

Artist Knecht indicated in her application that the piece is "Undamaged; Annual maintenance not needed; Corten ages beautifully for many decades." Staff will consult with the City's art restoration and maintenance vendors to check with them regarding the durability of Corten steel in the City's coastal environment and obtain estimates for cleanings as needed. Furthermore, the City will incur installation costs to be determined based on the recommended site location.

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).

ATTACHMENT A: Zan Knecht's Application for Review and Consideration of Acquisition of Art by the City of Newport Beach for *The Memory of Sailing*.

ATTACHMENT B: City Council Policy I-11, *Acquisition of Art by the City of Newport Beach*