



MEMO

To: Bert Lumbreras, City Manager and Stephanie Reyes, Assistant City Manager
From: Trey Hatt, Arts Coordinator
Date: 4/19/2021
Re: Transfer of Mermaid March to the Mermaid Society of Texas

During its March 17, 2021 monthly meeting, the Arts Commission voted to transfer future projects in the Mermaid March program to the Mermaid Society of Texas. This transfer does not involve City property or funds, and the current mermaid statues will remain City property and be displayed on City-owned ground and right-of-way.

BACKGROUND

The Mermaid March is a series of 10 fiberglass mermaid statues commissioned in 2016. Once the statues were created, a call for artists was issued to gather designs and commission artists to paint the statues with unique, original designs. The completed statues were placed in locations on City property and in City-controlled rights-of-way in 2018. A functioning mold of the statues no longer exists, and the April 11, 2016 contract with Fountain People, the firm that created the statues, did not specify the mold be kept.

MERMAID SOCIETY REQUEST

In late 2020, July Moreno of the Mermaid Society of Texas initiated a request of the Arts Commission to take over the program and coordinate the creation and placement of future mermaid sculptures. The Arts Commission held discussion on the request in January 2021 and approved of the request as an action item in March 2021. Action was scheduled for the February meeting, but it was canceled due to the historic winter storm.

FUTURE OF THE PROGRAM

Much like the successful ArtSquared Art Market, which began as a City-run art market called Art Unhitched, the Mermaid March has an opportunity to carry on as part of our energetic arts and cultural scene as a community-driven program.