

MIAMI BEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, Florida 33139,
www.miamibeachfl.com
Tourism and Culture Department
Tel: 305-673-7577

July 29, 2025

Ms. Deborah Tackett
City of Miami Beach
Department of Planning and Zoning
Historic Preservation Board
1700 Convention Center Drive
Miami Beach, FL 33139

Re: HPB LETTER OF INTENT – Historic Preservation Board Letter of Intent for permanent public artwork “Flamingo Machine” at Flamingo Park at 11th Street, Jefferson Avenue, Miami Beach, FL 33139

Dear Ms. Tackett,

The City of Miami Beach Tourism and Culture Department, as well as the Miami Beach Art in Public Places Committee, respectfully requests the Historic Preservation Board’s favorable review and approval of this application for the site placement of the permanent public artwork “Flamingo Machine” at Flamingo Park.

On October 16, 2019, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2019-31038 requesting that the Art in Public Places (AiPP) committee allocate a portion of AiPP funds appropriated from the Flamingo Park Youth Center (PAL Facility) G.O. Bond Project, or other G.O. Bond Projects within Flamingo Park for the commission of a flamingo-related work of art to be incorporated within Flamingo Park. AiPP funds are only available for appropriation once there are contracts in place for Capital Improvement Projects (CIP). Subsequently, on September 11, 2024, the Mayor and City Commission adopted Resolution No. 2024-33258 directing the Administration to implement Resolution No. 2019-31038. Once the series of projects in Flamingo Park led by CIP reached the appropriate development stage to enable access to funds, the Tourism and Culture Department (TCD) issued a Call to Artists to design a flamingo-inspired work of art for Flamingo Park.

At the July 15, 2025, Art in Public Places (AiPP) Committee Meeting, Committee members selected the “Flamingo Machine” proposal by artists Koichiro Azuma and Jutaro Sekita for the public artwork for the Flamingo Park project. The artist will install a sculpture that references a flamingo, measuring 20 feet high and 14 feet in width, to be located at the central juncture that meets at the heart of the park.

Proposed Location:

Located in the heart of South Beach, Flamingo Park (“The Park”) is a haven for sports lovers as well as families looking for a spot to cool off. After renovations, the park now has 17 tennis courts, a baseball stadium, handball and racquetball courts, a softball field, basketball court, football field, soccer field, running track, playground, walking trails and a bark park – all surrounded by lush tropical landscaping.

Flamingo Park features a state-of-the-art aquatic center with two pool areas. The park’s sports facilities are popular with locals as well as professional athletes who use them for off-season workouts. In addition to forementioned amenities, the Park will include a unique commissioned work of art as part of the Art in Public Places Program collection.

The Art in Public Places (AiPP) program is a city board responsible for the commission and purchase of artwork by contemporary artists in all media. The program is funded from 2% of hard costs for city projects and joint private/public projects. Funds from construction projects may be aggregated into the AiPP Fund and allocated for artwork at public sites and for collection maintenance. The fund is administered by a City Commission-appointed citizen’s board of seven members, the AiPP Committee.

The scope of work for the selected artists, Koichiro Azuma and Jutaro Sekita, includes providing, delivering and installing a custom art piece for Flamingo Park. This includes design therein with applicable hardware. The selected proposal of “Flamingo Machine” was required to provide a maintenance plan for the care of artwork.

The pre-determined potential location for placement of the artwork included the Park’s central juncture.

Project Description:


Koichiro Azuma and Jutaro Sekita’s “Flamingo Machine” is inspired by the movement of flamingos, much like crane trucks (named after the bird “crane”). While observing their movements, the artists noticed the similarity of mechanics to an excavator’s arm in motion. The proposed artwork design will include a bicycle which, when pedaled by park goers, moves the flamingo’s neck up and down, operating like an excavator. By combining movement, imagination and play, the sculpture becomes a playful, hands-on experience. Because the sculpture runs on pedaling, it also complements nearby sports facilities, encouraging physical activity. The proposed sculpture is 20 feet high and 14 feet wide and is built to playground safety standards with galvanized steel.

Koichiro Azuma is a kinetic sculptor whose practice explores the intersection of movement, materials, and community. He earned a Ph.D. in Fine Arts from Tokyo University of the Arts and is the founder of Azuma Kobo Co. Ltd., a metal processing studio launched in 2023. Currently, Azuma serves as an assistant professor in the Department of Integrated Sculpture at the

University of Tsukuba. His work is defined by interactive sculptures made from reclaimed metal and salvaged bicycle parts, inviting audiences to power and participate in the experience of art. With structural engineer Jutaro Sekita, Azuma creates public installations that emphasize safety, tactile engagement, and local storytelling. His notable projects include “Manpowered Snowplow” in Niigata, “Tea Plantation and Cyclist” in Shizuoka, and “Jumbo Chimney Project” in Ibaraki. Azuma has exhibited widely at events such as the Echigo-Tsumari Art Triennial, KIAF Seoul, and Roppongi Art Night. Among his many honors are the Nomura Art Prize and Grand Prize at TOKYO GEIDAI ART FES (2024), Salon de Printemps Award (2022), and an Excellence Award from TOKYO GEIDAI ART FES (2021).

The City of Miami Beach Tourism and Culture Department, as well as the Miami Beach Art in Public Places Committee, respectfully requests the Historic Preservation Board’s favorable review and approval of this application for site placement. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact me at 305-673-7577 x 26597.

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:

ED5AC282A6E2410...

Lisette Garcia Arrogante, MPA
Director
Tourism and Culture Department
City of Miami Beach