

History and Records Wall at the Islamorada Ron Levy Aquatic Center

<https://www.islamorada.fl.us/546/Arts-and-Culture>

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Call Overview

Entry Deadline: 07/30/2026 at 11:59 p.m. EST

Portal: [link to submission portal](#)

Work Sample Requirements

Images | Minimum: 3, Maximum: 5

Total Samples | Minimum: 3, Maximum: 5

Call Type: Public Art

Eligibility: National

State: Florida

Budget: \$20,000.00

Call Description

BUDGET: **\$20,000**

DEADLINE: July 30, 2026

INTRODUCTION

The Village of Islamorada is looking to commission an artist for a work-for-hire project to design and install an outdoor, wall-based History and Records Wall for the Ron Levy Aquatic Center. This artwork must include static informational text celebrating the pool's history as well as a changeable record board to highlight achievements of pool users. It will be the selected artist's responsibility to work with the Islamorada Parks and Recreation

Department and their designees to ensure the information contained in the artwork is correct and to comply with department requirements.

OVERALL PROJECT

A graphic artist/artist team will design, create, and install an outdoor, weatherproof, wall-based artwork for the Ron Levy Aquatic Center. The artwork should tell the story of the pool, celebrating important donors and figures in the history of the Aquatic Center such as pool designer Ron O'Brien, as well as the many notable swimmers and divers, teams, coaches, and facility staff who have been involved with the pool. The artwork should also connect the pool's history to its current community, incorporating a record board with changeable information to highlight current athletes' achievements. Digital and/or temporal artwork components supporting the physical artwork will also be considered.

THEME

Visual theme for this project should focus on the current and historic uses of the Ron Levy Aquatic Center, such as springboard diving, free diving, artistic swimming, and swimming. Inspiration can also be drawn from the unique natural environment of Islamorada. The artist(s) must consider functionality and availability of materials for future changeable information in the record board. Artists are encouraged to consider multiple related pieces or sections for the different elements of the project.

RON LEVY AQUATIC CENTER HISTORY

Finished in 2001, the Ron Levy Aquatic Center features a 50-meter by 25-yard Olympic size pool with water depths from 4 to 12.6 feet and a diving well with four springboards. It is southern-most Olympic-size pool in the continental United States! The pool was designed by Ron O'Brien, an Islamorada resident and Olympic and Paralympic Hall of Fame diving coach. O'Brien coached the U.S. team through eight successive Olympics from 1968 to 1996. Over the 2.5 decades since its construction the pool has hosted many collegiate swim and dive teams, including numerous notable athletes with Olympic careers, for seasonal training. The Ron Levy Aquatic Center was the first home of the [Race Club](#), a training organization founded by swim coach Gary Hall, Sr. in 2003. Subsequently, Race Club-trained swimmers, including Gary Hall, Jr., collectively won six Olympic swimming medals for the U.S. in the 2004 games. Current users of the pool include the [Synchro Sirens](#), [Fighting Manatees](#), and many more.

MATERIALS & SPECIFICATIONS

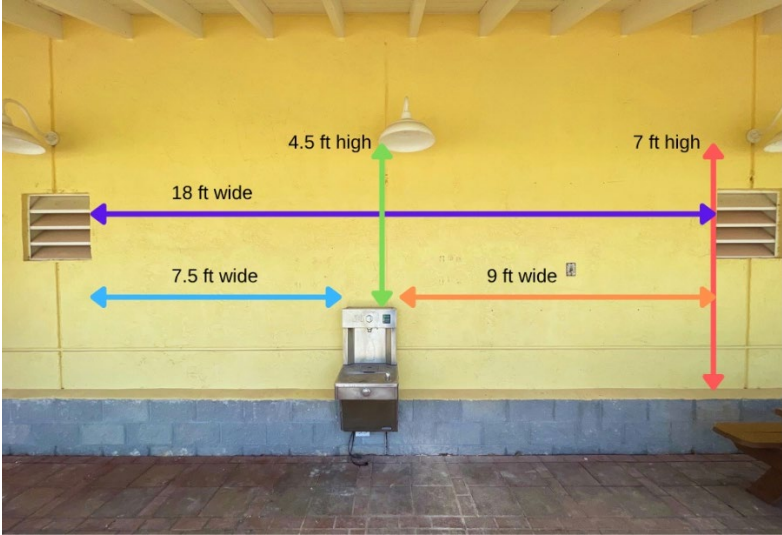
Since the artwork will be outdoors, specific materials must be used. Materials that are permitted must be durable, such as metals and metal composites including aluminum,

bronze, and steel. Ceramic, glass, concrete, and paint may also be permitted, as long as they are weatherproof. The artwork must not exceed the designated wall space.

PROJECT LOCATION

The artwork will be located on the exterior wall of the Ron Levy Aquatic Center lobby, inside the pool enclosure. This wall is under an overhang but is exposed to the outdoors on all sides.

Below are pictures of the site with dimensions marked.



INSTALLATION

The artwork will be installed by the artist, in coordination with Village of Islamorada staff. The Village must review the installation plans prior to the installation.

PROHIBITED CONTENT STANDARDS

Artists should bear in mind that the audience will be broad-based and of all ages, and designs should be appropriate for public display. Designs that are religious, political or sexual in nature will not be accepted. Neither corporate logos nor advertising is allowed. Designs will be evaluated to ensure they conform to these standards. The Village of Islamorada may reject any design that, in its sole discretion, does not adhere to these standards.

BACKGROUND ON ISLAMORADA

Islamorada, Village of Islands is located in the beautiful Florida Keys. The boundaries are from approximately Mile Marker MM 90 to MM 72, consisting of four islands spanning 18 linear miles with a land area of approximately 3,900 acres. The population is approximately 7000, and the primary industry is tourism. Known as the Sport Fishing Capital of the World, Islamorada is a popular vacation destination enjoyed for its up-scale small-town atmosphere, scenic bay, and ocean views, sunshine, boating, fishing, locally owned restaurants, quaint shops, and galleries. The Village's primary public cultural and recreation facility is Founders Park, located at MM 87. The 45-acre Founders Park offers sports and recreational programs and facilities, including sports coaching and training, fitness classes, and facilities for aquatics, golf, soccer, baseball, tennis, pickleball, volleyball, swimming, and basketball.

Application Requirements

SUBMITTAL REQUIREMENTS

All submissions should be submitted through the [linked portal](#). Submissions received after the deadline and not via the approved portal will not be accepted. Submissions must include:

1. Resume, including any public art experience.
2. Drivers license.
3. Artist statement – a brief description of what is motivating or inspiring you about this particular project and a design concept (limited to 500 words);
4. High resolution images of examples of relevant previous artwork (minimum 3; maximum 5); and
5. Design sketch

Failure to meet Call to Artists and submittal requirements will result in disqualification.

ARTIST SELECTION PROCESS

The selection process is managed by the Village of Islamorada. The Village Manager will appoint an ad hoc Pool History and Records Wall Advisory Task Force. The task force will have five (5) members, to include:

- A local artist,
- A coach of a pool-based sport,
- A pool user,
- A parks and recreation committee member, and
- The Founders Park Assistant Director

The ad hoc Pool History and Records Wall Advisory Task Force will be facilitated by the Cultural Arts Coordinator and supported by non-voting technical advisors from Village staff as needed.

From the initial submission pool, three (3) artists will be shortlisted and paid an honorarium of \$400 each to create a detailed proposal. The Village Manager will have final approval of the selected artist and design. The Village reserves the right to accept or reject any or all submissions, to abandon the project altogether, to waive irregularities, technical errors and formalities, and to select a qualified artist to provide the project as the Village deems will best serve the interests of the Village. Final purchase approval is contingent upon inspection ensuring long-term conservation of the artwork.

SELECTION CRITERIA

Detailed proposals will be scored using the following criteria – each category has an assigned point value. Scores will be assigned by the Pool History and Records Wall Advisory Task Force and used to make a recommendation to the Village Manager.

- Exceptional Quality (25)
- Enduring Value and Maintenance (25)
- Site Compatibility and Appropriateness (15)
- Adherence to Theme (25)
- Artists that are familiar with the Florida Keys, its culture and history (10)

Other Selection Issues:

- Florida “Sunshine Laws”: All meetings of the Pool History and Records Wall Advisory Task Force are open to the public, are publicly advertised and are documented through written minutes.
- Conflicts of Interest: Artists with immediate family or business partners on the Pool History and Records Wall Advisory Task Force are not eligible to apply. A Pool History and Records Wall Advisory Task Force member may choose to withdraw from discussion and voting for any apparent conflict of interest.

Eligibility Criteria

ELIGABILITY

This project is open to all professional artists in the continental US. Artists are NOT eligible who are immediate family or business partners of members of the Pool History and Records Wall Advisory Task Force.

Timeline

TIMELINE

The shortlist of no more than 3 artists will be selected no later than September 15, 2026. Detailed proposals will be required from those selected artists by November 1, 2026. It is the Village’s intention for the Village Manager to make the final selection on or before December 15, 2026, with execution of a contract with any selected artist occurring thereafter. Installation will take place between March and May 2027.