



## Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation

**ANDREW M. CUOMO**  
Governor

**SUSAN G. ROSENTHAL**  
President & CEO

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

RuthAnne Visnauskas, Chair, Commissioner of NYSHCR  
Robert F. Mujica Jr., Director of BUDGET  
Conway S. Ekpo  
Jeffrey R. Escobar  
David Kapell  
David Kraut  
Howard Polivy  
Michael Shinozaki

Agenda Item V, 4. December 12, 2019

### PROPOSED RESOLUTION

#### AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT WITH PROMETHEUS ART BRONZE FOUNDRY & METAL FABRICATION FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES FOR THE NELLIE BLY MEMORIAL

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**RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation of the State of New York (“RIOC”), as follows:

- Section 1. that RIOC is hereby authorized to enter into contract with Prometheus Art Bronze Foundry & Metal Fabrication for design and construction services for the Nellie Bly Memorial, upon such terms and conditions substantially similar to those outlined in the Memorandum from Jonna Carmona-Graf to Susan G. Rosenthal/Board of Directors dated December 3, 2019, attached hereto;
- Section 2. that the President/Chief Executive Officer or her designee is hereby authorized to take such actions and execute such instruments as she deems necessary to effectuate the foregoing; and
- Section 3. that this resolution shall take effect immediately.



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## MEMO

**TO:** Susan G. Rosenthal, President/CEO and the Board of Directors

**FROM:** Jonna Carmona-Graf, AVP Capital Planning and Projects

**DATE:** December 3, 2019

**RE:** 19-36756 Nellie Bly Memorial –Request to enter into contract with Prometheus Art Bronze Foundry & Metal Fabrication for Design and construction services

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**Background:** We wanted to both commemorated accomplishments of important women in history and expand upon the number of art installations on Roosevelt Island. As such, in June 2019 RIOC issued a Call for Artists to create a public monument honoring the achievements of Nellie Bly. She is considered the mother of investigative journalism, largely due to her exposé on the harsh treatment of patients at the Blackwell Island Insane Asylum. Her reports documenting the conditions and treatment at the hospital resulted in reform to the rules governing all hospitals in the City.

A project budget of \$500,000.00 was established for the solicitation and includes all fees associated with the proposed memorial. Subsequent to the artist selection, NYC Councilmember Ben Kallos, pledged \$70,000.00, to fund the braille plaques, audio app for hearing impaired and secondary walkway within the park.

A selection panel comprised of RIOC staff, RI Historical Society, RI Residents Association and RIVAA met to review proposals and interview the artists.

**Concept:** The Artist's concept for the memorial is named "The Girl Puzzle" and creates an interactive experience within Lighthouse Park. It is modeled after a traditional Japanese Zen Garden with stylized landscape features and clean lines. The proposed installation, within a plaza area of approximately 900 square feet, will have five (5) 7'-0" tall bronze sculptures of female faces set in the park and three mirrored, stainless steel spheres.

As the viewer enters the 60' long plaza walkway, they encounter two bronze faces on each side of the plaza. The four bronze faces depict women of different ages and ethnicities. A fifth face of Nellie, cast in silver bronze is located at the northern terminus of the plaza. The mirrored spheres are on axis with the center of Nellie's face and are varied in size. A low seat wall outlines three sides of the plaza to create a contemplative space for the viewer.

The installation will include written quotes representative of her conviction, compassion and accomplishments and will be fully accessible. There will be bronze plaques in braille highlighting the exhibit for the visually impaired and an audio component for the hearing impaired.

**Procurement:** The Call for Artists was posted on our website as well as websites of the New York Foundation for the Arts and Bronx Visual Artist Directory. Evaluation criteria included in the solicitation called for a two-step selection process. The first stage rated respondents on:

Statement of Interest	15%
Artists Statement	15%
Resume	15%
References	10%
Work Samples	30%
Interview/Presentation	15%
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100%</b>

The total score from all committee members were tallied and the top three proposals were invited to the second stage of evaluation and given an opportunity to develop a concept for the memorial. The second stage participants were given an opportunity to present their concept to the evaluation committee. At the end of the presentations, the committee ranked these concepts, and chose a finalist.

A total of seven proposals were received and rated using the stage one criteria stated above, yielding the following results:

	Respondents	Statement of Interest	Artist's Statement	Resume	References	Work Samples	Interview /Presentation	Total
	<b>Points</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100.0</b>
1	Amanda Matthews	13.57	13.29	14.71	9.86	28.71	15.00	95.14
2	Antonio Tobias Mendez	13.00	12.86	13.43	8.14	24.57	13.14	85.14
	Daniel Borup	11.43	11.43	11.29	8.14	22.43	12.57	77.29
	Gemma Gene	10.71	9.71	10.29	7.14	18.86	10.57	67.29
	Melinda Hunt	10.71	8.86	10.14	4.86	14.43	9.86	58.86
3	Meredith Bergman	12.43	11.86	13.29	7.57	22.00	12.86	80.00
	Oscar Mejia	10.71	8.86	8.29	6.57	19.00	7.71	61.14

In accordance with the evaluation criteria, the top three first stage respondents advanced to the second stage. Upon conclusion of the second stage interviews and presentations, the committee ranked participants as follows:

1. Amanda Matthews/Prometheus Art
2. Antonio Tobias Mendez
3. Meredith Bergmann

**Recommendation:** Based on the above, RIOC's Capital Planning and Projects recommends, subject to the satisfaction of all contracting requirements, that the Board of Directors authorize and approve entering into contract with Prometheus Art Bronze Foundry & Metal Fabrication to provide design and construction services for the Nellie Bly Memorial in the amount of \$500,000.00. We expect all work to be complete within nine (9) months.