



KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

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President & CEO

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Agenda Item V, 3. May 25, 2023

PROPOSED RESOLUTION

**AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT GIFT OF THE “DRUMMER” SCULPTURE
FROM LIU SHIMING ART FOUNDATION**

RESOLVED by the Board of Directors of the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation of the State of New York, as follows:

- Section 1. that RIOC is hereby authorized to accept a gift of the “Drummer” sculpture from Liu Shiming Art Foundation, upon such terms and conditions substantially similar to those outlined in the Memorandum from Gretchen K. Robinson to Shelton J. Haynes/RIOC Board of Directors dated May 19, 2023, attached hereto;
- Section 2. that the President/Chief Executive Officer or President’s designee is hereby authorized to take such actions and execute such instruments as deemed necessary to effectuate the foregoing; and
- Section 3. that this resolution shall take effect immediately.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: RIOC Board of Directors
Shelton J. Haynes, President & CEO

FROM: Gretchen K. Robinson, VP & General Counsel

DATE: May 19, 2023

RE: Gift of the “Drummer” Sculpture from Liu Shiming Art Foundation

Background

In March 2023, the representatives of the Roosevelt Island Visual Arts Association (RIVAA) and the Liu Shiming Art Foundation reached out to RIOC’s President Shelton J. Haynes with their proposal to donate the “Drummer” Sculpture by the renowned Chinese artist Liu Shiming from Liu Shiming Art Foundation (attached).

At the April 3, 2023 Board of Directors meeting, the representatives from Liu Shiming Art Foundation introduced the proposal for the donation of Liu Shiming’s Drummer sculpture to Roosevelt Island. The 1987 sculpture captures the theme when drummers are performing the Ansai Waist Drum, a unique large-scale folkdance performed at festivals such as Lunar New Year. Liu Shiming was a revered Chinese sculptor and an educator, despite suffering from ALC since childhood. Nevertheless, Liu Shiming never let his physical challenges hold him back from pursuing the passion for art.

The Foundation proposed three different sizes of the sculpture with estimated weights for the sculpture to be recast, depending on the environment of the installation. The Liu Shiming Art Foundation is willing to cover all the costs associated with the sculpture, including its design, molds, raw material, shipping, handling, customs charge, transportation, and installation. The Foundation commits to covering the cost of design engineering, any subsurface investigation or utility survey that may be required, and any other necessary construction costs.

The Foundation was established in 2021 in New York as a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Its mission is to promote Liu Shiming’s artistic legacy, preserve the artwork of the artist, as well as to make an engaging platform to collectively support the artist’s history, culture studies, and the humanity of art. In 2022, the foundation also hosted an exhibition at RIRA featuring a collection of Liu Shiming’s work. Residents of Roosevelt Island enjoyed the art-

making moments and expressed tremendous passion and gratitude towards the clay workshop organized during the exhibition. Since the workshop was so popular, the Foundation received a strong interest from the Roosevelt Island community and is now planning to work together with RIVAA to build a long-term art educational workshop for Roosevelt Island.

At the May 18, 2023 informational session held in lieu of the Real Estate Development Advisory Committee meeting, RIOC's Director of Capital Planning and Projects, Prince Shah, presented and discussed the placement of the sculpture in two potential locations on Roosevelt Island.

As authorized by Powers of the corporation § 2799-dddd, subsection 11 of the Public Authorities Law (the "RIOC Act") and in the spirit of Roosevelt Island as "the Island of Arts," I hereby recommend that the Board accept the gift of the "Drummer" Sculpture from Liu Shiming Art Foundation to Roosevelt Island. I am also seeking authorization to enter into documentation regarding the gift and related work with the Foundation to finalize delivery and installation of the sculpture with the input and cooperation of RIVAA.

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Ansai Waist Drummer, Bronze, 1987

We'd like to propose the installation of the late Chinese artist Liu Shiming's bronze sculpture work *Ansai Waist Drummer* inside the Roosevelt Island community. From the stand of the Liu Shiming Art Foundation, we see a strong connection between the culture of the Roosevelt Island community and the spirit of this specific artwork by Liu Shiming. With that having been said, we'd like to highlight the cultural value of the Ansai waist drum, the artist Liu Shiming's artistic career and beliefs, as well as the prospects of the Liu Shiming Art Foundation.

Proposed sizes and estimated weights of the sculpture *Ansai Waist Drum*:

Size (in inches)	Estimated weight (in pounds)
40inches*40.8inches*18.8inches	210
60inches*61.2inches*28.2inches	720
80inches*81.6inches*37.6inches	1680

(The original size of the sculpture is: 7.7inches*7.8inches*3.6inches)

The Liu Shiming Art Foundation will be covering the expenses of transporting and installing the sculpture.

Cultural Background of Ansai Waist Drum

The sculpture *Ansai Waist Drummer* captures the scene when the drummer is performing the Ansai Waist drum. The Ansai waist drum dance is a unique, large-scale folk dance consisting of both vigorous dances and frenetic drumming. It dates to more than 2000 years in Ansai county, the Northern Shanxi province of Midwest China. Young people perform the dance throughout their villages during festivals such as the Lunar New Year.

LiuShiming Art Foundation

Liu Shiming's bronze sculpture piece *Ansai Waist Drummer* was made in 1987. He described this work as:

"When I was creating Ansai Waist Drummer, there was neither form nor resemblance; I simply followed the momentum and audacity of the gesture. The simple and primitive charm, and the vivid and unrestrained manner is the work of nature, not of man. This was the idea that I pursued in my work; I pursued spiritual resemblance through formal resemblance. I was looking for a simple and innocent charm."

About the Artist Liu Shiming

Liu Shiming (1926-2010) was a revered Chinese sculptor and educator, whose works have made a distinct impact on the course of modern Chinese sculpture art. In 2018, the Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing founded the Liu Shiming Sculpture Museum, dedicated to researching and investigating Liu's artworks and their historical significance. Liu Shiming works have been displayed in prominent galleries and spaces across the globe, including exhibitions in Beijing, Washington D.C., and a special exhibition in the main atrium of the Oculus in New York City. This year, we successfully held exhibitions at Gallery RIVAA at Roosevelt Island and Godwin-Ternbach Museum of Queens college to introduce Liu's modernist sensibilities to a greater scope of audiences.

About the Foundation

Under the pretext of the late artist Liu Shiming's oeuvre to global audiences, the Liu Shiming Art Foundation, a 501(C)(3) nonprofit organization, was founded in 2021 to preserve the works of acclaimed Chinese artist Liu Shiming, as well as for the advancement of the global discourse surrounding the arts, history, and culture. The fund aims to support art students and emerging artists by encouraging the creation of all forms of art and multicultural study. Permanent displays of Liu Shiming's sculpture works can now be found in New York, Cairo, and soon, Italy. Our vision is to make an engaging platform to collectively support the arts, history, and cultural study and share the rich aesthetic, inclusion, and humanity of the art. From May.21st to June.16th this year, the Foundation also hosted the exhibition "Sculpting the Chinese Spirit: Vitality in Stillness" to feature a carefully selected collection from the roughly 2,000 works Liu created in his lifetime at Roosevelt Island Visual Arts Association. At the interactive session, attendees learned more

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about Liu Shiming's life and art. For example, his joy-filled, 1989 sculpture "Mengmeng" is meant to remind viewers to look at life through a child's perspective. The residents showed great enthusiasm for the work of this artist from China. This exhibition served as a venue for those unfamiliar with Chinese culture to be inspired. Liu Shiming was an artist of the people, people from all around the world. No borders nor nationalities could hinder his sincere love for humanity.

During the exhibition at Gallery RIVAA, the foundation designed clay workshops for attendees to experience the art of clay sculpture with a hands-on approach. Residents of Roosevelt Island were bringing their families to enjoy the art-making moments and expressed tremendous passion and gratitude towards the workshop. Since the workshop was so popular and we received strong interest from the local community, we are now planning to work together with Gallery RIVAA to build up a permanent art educational workshop for the Roosevelt Island community. Up until today, the foundation has established partnerships with 32 universities around the globe to set up "Liu Shiming Scholars Fund", including Columbia University, Rutgers University, Georgia State University, Macaulay Honors College and Queens College in CUNY, Nanyang Academy of Fine Arts at Singapore, American University of Beirut and more.

Our prospective

We chose Roosevelt Island as one of the stops in New York City for the Liu Shiming Art Foundation to celebrate arts from different cultural backgrounds based on our appreciation for the growing diversity of the RI community. The Island's collection now includes works by several notable artists, such as Swedish sculptors Gustav and Ulla Kraitz, as well as American artists Amanda Matthews, Tom Otterness, and Michael Poast. However, to further expand the international representation of the collection, the addition of a work by Liu Shiming would be highly valuable. It would not only contribute to a more diverse art collection, but also appeal to the Island's large international population. Over the recent decades, more international young professionals and families coming from different cultural backgrounds have decided to reside in Roosevelt Island and helped with expanding the size of such an intimate local community. We believe that arts coming from a different cultural domain like Liu Shiming can become a powerful engagement tool to help participants cross-cultural and communication bridges and inspire emotional and relational connections among residents. Liu Shiming himself spent a great amount of time building personal

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connections with common people from different social classes and continuously taking inspiration from there and his own daily life. He once said that it is through the arts that people can truly connect. Furthermore, the fact that Liu Shiming's works are also included in collections of universities, museums, and galleries worldwide adds to the value of accepting this gift. It would not only enrich the Island's collection but also place it in a global context, contributing to the Island's cultural and artistic reputation.

Liu Shiming's art is not only significant for its cultural value, but also for the story of perseverance and resilience behind it. Since childhood, Liu Shiming suffered from ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis), a condition that weakened his muscles and restrained his mobility. Despite these challenges, he pursued his passion for art and became a successful artist, inspiring others with his determination and talent. His story is a testament to the power of art to transcend physical limitations and connect people from all walks of life. As the Liu Shiming Art Foundation seeks to expand its reach and impact, we believe that Roosevelt Island is an ideal location to showcase Liu Shiming's work. President Franklin D. Roosevelt, after whom Roosevelt Island is named, was also a person with a disability. The Roosevelt Island Disabled Association is dedicated to improving the lives of disabled individuals on the island, and Liu Shiming's story can serve as an inspiration to this community. By including his art in our collection, we hope to promote greater awareness and understanding of disability issues, and to foster a more inclusive and diverse cultural environment on Roosevelt Island.

All forms of art could communicate ideas that are difficult to express in any language. Passing Liu Shiming's beliefs on to today, we'd like to emphasize art-based community engagement once again through Liu Shiming's artwork to maintain a greater understanding among people today. We also endeavor to inspire more communicative interactions between different forms of arts by introducing contemporary Chinese arts to the Western World.