



March 4, 2024

Dear City Manager and City Council,

New Port Richey Main Street is planning a public art project in recognition of the city's upcoming 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary with permanent mini bronze sculptures throughout our downtown district associated with a historical building or site. These pieces would be permanently placed on the building and secured by a plaque with a QR code. The QR code would be directed to our website, [www.nprmainstreet.com](http://www.nprmainstreet.com), where there would be a specific landing page identifying each statue, provide the current building name and owner, history of each landmark or building, identify the Artist, and also provide room for a list of sponsors. The artwork will be arched coming out of the plaque or a plaque mounted alongside the miniature sculpture. The sculptures would be approximately 8"-10" in length and something visitors would need to look for thus being a "hidden figure". We are modeling these after some of the city art displayed on Atlas Obscura <https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/figurines-of-boras>, other miniature sculptures, such as Budapest <https://budapestflow.com/hidden-mini-statues-budapest>, and other examples of these "hidden figures" in other popular cities. The artist highly suggests pouring all 10 statues at the same time to save on cost to produce and our goal is to have raised enough funds to have these ready for presentation and mounting by the Fall or end of 2024.

We have identified several locations of interest throughout the city and below are the landmarks or historical sites we have approached:

**Richey Suncoast Theater** - Originally built by Clark, Leeston-Smith, and Grey and was originally named after Thomas Meighan, a silent film star, who had dreams of making New Port Richey the "Hollywood of the South" – unfortunately the depression put an end to his dream. But throughout the past 40 years, the theater continues to strive and offer live theater and movies.

**Leeston - Smith Building** - Built by city leader, E. A. Leeston-Smith in 1926, for decades housed a series of bars, lounges, and restaurants such as Miller's Café from the 1930s to 1970s. In its early days, the building contained Holmes Hardware and Furniture Company, A & P Grocery, and Bailey Five and Ten Cents Store. Zen Kitchen & Bar and Sip On Grand currently house this beautiful building.

**The Hacienda Hotel** - One of the original "Pink Hotels of Florida", built during the roaring 20's and was operated as a hotel and event space hosting numerous silent and early 20<sup>th</sup> century actors and actresses until it closed in 1976. The hotel was restored to its original beauty in 2022 and now a main centerpiece of New Port Richey.

**Havens - Chasco Inn** - The oldest commercial building in downtown served as a hotel and a post office during its heyday. Currently houses Gone Juicing Cafe, Herschel's Scratch Kitchen and other professional offices.

**Clark Building** - Currently the location of Bourbon on Main built in 1922 and was the drug store and Pasco Hardware.

**The Burnette Arcade** - The first first enclosed mall built in 1927 and housed the post office and library. Currently it houses Maharajh Acupuncture & Herb Shoppe and Antique Center on Main Street.

**Swafford Building** - This building was the original firehouse, library, and city hall and currently the location of Social NPR, Dang Good on Main and Ordinance One.

**New Port Richey Land Company Office** - Located at the corner of Main and Grand was built as the original land company holding the majority of the deeds to all parcels in Port Richey and New Port Richey, but never opened due to the financial market crash.

**Morey - Bowman Building** - Renamed "The Blvd Building" and currently the location of Downtown Hair Lounge, Mullins Music and Lis's Pieces, it was originally the "Pearl of the West" Lodge No. 146, a Masonic Lodge in the 1920's.

**Pasco Building** - Built by George Sims, the Father of New Port Richey, in 1924, originally had six commercial spaces with tile and plate glass fronts and twelve offices on the second floor. Currently housed by Rose's Bistro, Boulevard Beef and Ale, Pink Brick Boutique and the White Heron Tea Room.

**First Bank of NPR** - This was the first formal bank and currently houses the attorney offices of McPhearson-Thomas P.A.

As noted above, we have begun contacting the property owners of these buildings for approval to mount the statues on their buildings and also include a sustainability plan for maintaining them for the next 10 years. We are happy to say we have signed approval agreements from 9 property owners.

Once the project is complete, we intend to submit it to ***Atlas Obscura*** to be listed in their travel destination website. We expect this listing on this international travel website will increase the city's visibility to a larger audience worldwide.

We estimate this project will cost \$43,000.

New Port Richey Main Street, Inc. and the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Art Project Committee would like to offer the City of New Port Richey the Lead Sponsorship for this project with your pledge of \$20,000. In return of this pledge, the city will receive "naming rights" for the entire project with the city name and logo placed prominently on all marketing materials. Marketing materials include all NPRMS, Inc. social media platforms, collateral material, signage and a NPRMS, Inc. web page dedicated to the project. The City of New Port Richey will also be mentioned as the lead sponsor on all narrations on the project website.

As a matter of process, having all the funding in place will allow the project to complete in a timely manner. This letter and confirmation of lead sponsorship allows us to better insure a prompt delivery of the finished statues.

Thank you for your consideration.

Please let me know if you have any questions or need any additional information about the project or the sponsorship.

Cordially,

***Beth Louise Fregger***

Beth Louise Fregger  
Design Committee Vice Chairperson  
New Port Richey Main Street, Inc.

***Tina Gordon***

Tina Gordon  
Program Director  
New Port Richey Main Street, Inc.