



TO: Mayor Linda Gorton
Urban County Council Members

FROM: Heather Lyons, Mayor's Office

CC: Tyler Scott, Chief of Staff

DATE: April 7, 2025

SUBJECT: Grant Award Agreement

Authorization to: Provide funding support to a Public Art Project, Lexington Freedom Train, to be created by artist Basil Watson, and installed at the corner of 4th Street and Limestone Street

Why are you requesting? The Lexington Freedom Train sculpture is an important local and national story that will be told through a work of art, telling the story of Lewis and Harriett Hayden. Lewis was born into slavery in Lexington. In 1842 Hayden married Harriet Bel. In 1844, with the help of abolitionists, they escaped to Ohio and then along the Underground Railroad to Canada. After settling in Boston, the Hayden's became key leaders in Boston's African American and abolitionist communities. Their Beacon Hill Home served as a stop on the Underground Railroad and a gathering place for Boston's abolitionist movement. The work of art has been created by Basil Watson, an artist of international acclaim, with over 45 years of experience. The artwork will be cast in bronze and installed June, 2025 at the corner of 4th Street and N. Lime Street.

LexArts is serving as the Fiscal Agent for the project.

If, through any cause, the Grantee shall fail to fulfill in timely and proper manner its obligations under this Agreement, or if the Grantee shall violate any of the covenants, agreements, or stipulations of this Agreement, the Government shall provide the Grantee or thirty (30) calendar days to address the deficiency or violation.

Department needs this action completed because: Lexington Freedom Train successfully applied to the Public Art Commission for funding support for this project and has provided all of the required documentation.

What is the cost in this budget year and future budget years? The total contribution by the LFUCG's Percent for Art Fund is \$245,000. The first payment of \$100,000 to be made upon council approval in April, with the remainder to follow.

Are the funds budgeted? YES

Account number: 2614 134201 1428

File Number:

Director/Commissioner: Heather Lyons



