

# MIAMI BEACH

City of Miami Beach, 1700 Convention Center Drive, Miami Beach, FL 33139, [www.miamibeachfl.gov](http://www.miamibeachfl.gov)

OFFICE OF MARKETING & COMMUNICATIONS, Tel: 305.673.7575

Tonya Daniels, E-mail: [tonyadaniels@miamibeachfl.gov](mailto:tonyadaniels@miamibeachfl.gov)

Melissa Berthier, E-mail: [melissaberthier@miamibeachfl.gov](mailto:melissaberthier@miamibeachfl.gov)

## PRESS RELEASE

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### **The Host Becomes the Collector**

— *City of Miami Beach to Expand its Public Art Collection Via Acquisition at Art Basel Miami Beach* —

**Miami Beach, FL** – As Art Basel Miami Beach enters its 18<sup>th</sup> year, the City of Miami Beach deepens its commitment to contemporary art and its relationship with Art Basel by establishing a new acquisition program for purchasing a work of art at the fair. The Legacy Purchase Program, under the city’s Art in Public Places (AiPP) division, will allow residents to be involved in the acquisition of a world-class art piece for the municipality’s public collection.

“We look forward to the city’s strategic expansion of our current public art collection by leveraging Art Basel’s ability to attract exceptional art and allowing our residents to be a part of the excitement,” said City Manager Jimmy Morales.

Artwork that could be considered includes painting, photography, sculpture, video and installation-based works. The Legacy Program is funded from the city’s AiPP fund which is dedicated to the purchase of public art, with a limit of up to \$100,000 from the AiPP that includes the purchase, commission and all other associated fees. Maintenance and conservation of the piece will fall under Art in Public Places Fund 147 and the city’s AiPP guidelines. These funds have been designated to purchase first-rate works of art, so that is exactly what the Tourism and Culture department has set out to do.

“The city’s curatorial vision is to pursue artwork that is reflective of our community, echoes artistic excellence, is the work of a nationally and/or internationally recognized artist, and is a valuable addition to the Art in Public Places collection. It is important that we include the residents — to allow them to be a part of the excitement of a world-class art fair and to include their voices in what piece of art becomes a part of their permanent public collection,” said Director of Tourism & Culture Matt Kenny.

Galleries taking part in the Nova and Positions sectors of the 2019 fair will receive a “Call to Artists” from the City of Miami Beach and Art Basel to submit up to two works that meet the Legacy Program’s curatorial vision and guidelines. From those submissions, the city’s AiPP Committee will select six artworks to view in person at Art Basel Miami Beach on Wednesday, December 4, 2019.

Following this viewing, the AiPP Committee will select three works of art to put to a public vote online. Voting will be open from approximately 8 p.m. on Wednesday, December 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, December 5. The work of art with the most votes will be announced on Friday, December 6 and will be acquired by the city on that same day.

The artwork will be displayed within a dedicated, publicly accessible area of the Miami Beach Convention Center or the surrounding City's Civic and Cultural District (if the work determines an outdoor location).

“We’re delighted to strengthen our relationship with the city through the new Legacy Program, which will give emerging artists from our Nova and Positions sectors the possibility of establishing a permanent home here, for residents and visitors to enjoy long after the fair closes in December,” said Noah Horowitz, Art Basel's Director Americas.

The city’s Art in Public Places collection includes works by renowned artists such as Franz Ackermann, Elmgreen & Dragset, Dan Graham, Ellen Harvey, Joseph Kosuth, Sarah Morris, Joep van Lieshout, and Tobias Rehberger, among others.

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### **About Art Basel**

Founded in 1970 by gallerists from Basel, Art Basel today stages the world's premier art shows for Modern and contemporary art, sited in Basel, Miami Beach, and Hong Kong. Defined by its host city and region, each show is unique, which is reflected in its participating galleries, artworks presented, and the content of parallel programming produced in collaboration with local institutions for each edition. Art Basel’s engagement has expanded beyond art fairs through a number of new initiatives such as The Art Basel and UBS Global Art Market Report, Art Basel Cities, and more recently Art Basel Inside. For further information, please visit [artbasel.com](http://artbasel.com).