

A Cavalcade shines into Boynton Beach: City welcomes colorful sculpture to support downtown growth

The sun will soon shine in even brighter and more vivid shades, and residents and visitors of southeastern Florida's Boynton Beach will have another reason to take pride in their great city. That's because the City, nicknamed "America's Gateway to the Gulfstream" for its location along Palm Beach County's Atlantic coast, is slated to become home on October 13 to a permanent sculpture named *Cavalcade*. Created by internationally-renowned artist Albert Paley, the piece, to be unveiled at a new mixed-use development at 500 Ocean Boulevard in the heart of the City's downtown district, will serve as the centerpiece of an outdoor exhibition and as the catalyst for downtown waterfront growth.

The project and the sculpture are considered essential to the City's goal to remain a relevant and exciting destination for locals and visitors alike by expanding the number of attractions and options through the already-popular waterfront area. In 2015, then-Mayor Jerry Taylor explained, "In order to build downtown, you have to have businesses and a population." (Attiyya Anthony, "500 Ocean project offers hope to downtown Boynton's growth," *Sun-Sentinel*, September 17, 2015).

While the stakes are high, Paley believes that his new work can play a big role in bringing Taylor's vision to fruition. Paley says, "The sculpture will provide a dramatic silhouette when accented against the sky. The spire-like shapes projecting into the sky engage the quality and play of sunlight." The artist adds, "As the sun traverses, the play of light and shade will dramatically increase the sculpture's dynamism."

Standing at 40 feet tall, the sculpture was funded through the City's Arts in Public Places one-percent public art fee, which was covered by LeCesse Development Corp., developer of the 500 Ocean project. The primary goal of the Arts in Public Places program is to celebrate the City's heritage and to integrate public art "into the architecture, infrastructure, landscape and greenways throughout Boynton Beach" as development occurs. In so doing, the program extends the City's reputation as a global destination of a place to live, work, and visit. A commission comprised of city residents or business owners, preferably artists, art volunteers/activists, planners, private developers such as LeCesse, architects, neighborhood association members, or interested citizens oversees the program. (boynton-beach.org)

The innovative design of *Cavalcade* is particularly fitting for the City and the project's subtropical location and image. According to Paley, the sculpture's "spires painted yellow would contrast dramatically with the blue of the sky. Thematically, the splayed vertical elements have their basis in my interpretation of palm fronds. The palm fronds' thin, delicate, floral elements that project into the sky and are so much a part of the landscape would here be introduced and experienced within a different context." (albertpaley.com)

Beyond *Cavalcade*, fans of Paley and the City will have even more to look forward to. An additional six Paley sculptures will be unveiled along the Avenue of the Arts through March 2018, as part of the Art in Public Places initiative. More information about *Cavalcade* and all of Paley's work, and about Boynton Beach and its Public Arts program, can be found at www.albertpaley.com and at www.boynton-beach.org. See you in the shadows of the *Cavalcade* by the ocean!