

September 30, 2019

To Whom it May Concern:

It is with great pleasure that I recommend Mr. Craig Gray as an outstanding Artist working in the Public Art field. On behalf of the Florida Keys Council of the Arts Board of Directors, I lend support to our many artists, writers and performers in Monroe County. The opportunity to share with you my ongoing positive experiences with Craig is gratifying.

I have known Mr. Gray since he first arrived on the island as an artist in residence at our prestigious Studios of Key West. He quickly discovered what a special place Key West is and knew that this was the perfect spot to nurture and develop his artistic skill set. His passion and persistence for not only his craft, stone carving, but of the storytelling of our history in his work is admirable. Craig is dedicated to his work, and strives to complete his work on time and on budget. His proposals are thoughtful and with each new one his ideas are evolving. I find his work ethic and time management skills to be respectful of the process and very reasonable.

Most recently, as the Public Art Administrator for the City of Key West's Public Art program, I had the opportunity to commission Craig as one of four artists to place site specific work at our renovated and restored Key West City Hall. The AIPP Board unanimously recommended Craig's proposal for two granite carved benches in the butterfly park that celebrated the literary legacies of the Island. Craig's Book Benches which he aptly titled, *Speaking Volumes I and II* are absolutely fabulous. They will weather any storm, are creative and inspiring and the public is immediately engaged as they discover the various titles and authors' names carved into the benches.

Mr. Gray is devoted to his craft and is continuing to impress us with his proposals and enthusiasm for the Keys' arts community and public art program. Each piece that Craig creates shares his passion, humor and carving skills with the community. He is enthusiastic, professional and dedicated.

I, without reservation recommend Craig Gray, for your public art project.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

  
Elizabeth S. Young  
Executive Director