

From: [Evelyn Beltran](#)
Cc: [Nancy Pauley](#)
Bcc: [Kristopher Mooney](#); [Brian Robin](#); [Jeffrey Bernstein](#); [Jim Gazan](#); [Linda Futterer](#); [Mark Marshall](#); [Naomi Soto](#); [Measure J Commission](#); [Sid Craig](#)
Subject: Rainmaker Fountain Correspondence (MJ-CIP Submittal ID No. 25)
Date: Thursday, February 3, 2022 2:50:00 PM
Attachments: [Desi Re-The Fountain 2-2-2022.pdf](#)
[C. Scruqqs RE-Rainmaker Fountain PalmSprings 2-2-2022 from M. Lesniak.pdf](#)
[Rainmaker Fountian Letter received from Local Resident.pdf](#)
[G. Holtzer RE-fountain 2-2-2022.pdf](#)
[D. Aiken & D. Jones 2-2-2022 RE-Rainmaker fountain in Francis Stevens Park Palm Springs.pdf](#)
[D. Morris from M. Lesniak - 2.2.2022 RE-Rainmaker Operation.pdf](#)

Commissioners (Bcc'd) –

Attached please find correspondence provided by Arts Commissioner Matthew Lesniak regarding the Rainmaker Fountain, MJ-CIP submittal ID No. 25.

Evelyn Beltran

Executive Administrative Assistant



Department of Finance & Treasury
Evelyn.Beltran@PalmSpringsCA.gov
(760) 323-8229 | Ext. 8376
(760) 322-8320
Mobile: (760) 219-6009
3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way
P.O. Box 2743
Palm Springs, CA 92263-2743

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From: [Evelyn Beltran](#)
To: [M L](#)
Subject: RE: Multiple emails regarding Rainmaker Fountain
Date: Thursday, February 3, 2022 2:51:00 PM
Attachments: [Desi Re-The Fountain 2-2-2022.pdf](#)
[C. Scruggs RE-Rainmaker Fountain PalmSprings 2-2-2022 from M. Lesniak.pdf](#)
[Rainmaker Fountain Letter received from Local Resident.pdf](#)
[G. Holtzer RE-fountain 2-2-2022.pdf](#)
[D. Aiken & D. Jones 2-2-2022 RE-Rainmaker fountain in Francis Stevens Park Palm Springs.pdf](#)
[D. Morris from M. Lesniak - 2.2.2022 RE-Rainmaker Operation.pdf](#)

Good afternoon Mr. Lesniak,

This is confirmation that I have received your correspondence regarding the Rainmaker Fountain. I converted the emails into PDF's and have forwarded them to the Measure J Oversight Commission.

Thank you,

Evelyn Beltran
Executive Administrative Assistant

Department of Finance & Treasury
Evelyn.Beltran@PalmSpringsCA.gov
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-----Original Message-----

From: M L <ml310@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 9:45 PM
To: Evelyn Beltran <Evelyn.Beltran@palmspringsca.gov>
Subject: RE: Multiple emails regarding Rainmaker Fountain

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Ms Beltran

Please confirm that you received the emailed letters (I believe 5 total thus far) that the Public Arts Commission has received re Rainmaker Fountain. We would appreciate that the emails be shared with the Measure J Commission.

Thank you
Matthew Lesniak
Commissioner

From: [M.L](#)
To: [Evelyn Beltran](#)
Subject: Rainmaker Fountain Letter received from Local Resident
Date: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 9:32:50 PM
Attachments: [Rainmaker Fountain PalmSprings.pdf](#)

NOTICE: This message originated outside of The City of Palm Springs -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.

To the attention of Ms Beltran and the Measure J committee

My apologies for all of the emails i ma sending however the Public Arts Commission feels its important that these be shared with the Measure J Committee. I am another email that the Public Arts Commission has received related to the "Rainmaker" fountain in downtown Palm Springs. This particular email is from a resident in Palm Springs. Please share these with the Measure J Commission.

Thank you
Matthew Lesniak
Commissioner
Palm Springs Public Arts Commission

Charles Paul Scruggs

31 January 2022

Dear Palm Springs Arts Council, City Leaders, et al.

As a resident of Palm Springs, I'm writing regarding my interest and concern for the "Rainmaker" public fountain located downtown opposite KOFFI on Palm Canyon Drive.

Several times during the week, I travel on Palm Canyon Drive. I know, I'm home when I see Rainmaker fountain. It's the first thing I see when I arrive and the last thing I see when I depart the city. Often, while stopping by KOFFI, I'll frequently walk over and enjoy the fountain.

I am disappointed and concerned as the fountain has not functioned since November. The fountain is an iconic structure in Palm Springs and should be maintained and functioning at all times. The fountain is not only an iconic structure, it also brings pleasure and a sense of calm to many, especially during the current pandemic. It is sad to see a structure that Palm Springs has used in promotional literature not functioning and in such disrepair.

I encourage the city of Palm Springs and all city agencies involved to address the repair needs of this iconic fountain "Rainmaker" and turn it on for residents and visitors to enjoy.

Thank you,



Charles P. Scruggs
Resident, Palm Springs, CA

From: [M.L](#)
To: [Evelyn Beltran](#)
Subject: Fw: Rainmaker fountain in Francis Stevens Park Palm Springs
Date: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 9:24:11 PM

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To the attention of Ms Beltrain and the Measure J committee

I am forwarding several emails that the Public Arts Commission has received related to the "Rainmaker" fountain in downtown Palm Springs. This particular email is from local residents that served on the Palm Springs Commissions.

Thank you

Matthew Lesniak

Commissioner

Palm Springs Public Arts Commission

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Irl D Jones <durandjones@mac.com>
To: mll310@yahoo.com <mll310@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, January 31, 2022, 07:36:14 AM PST
Subject: Rainmaker fountain in Francis Stevens Park Palm Springs

Good Morning Matthew,

David Morris called us (David Aiken and DuRand Jones) to ask for some input on the Rainmaker fountain. We wrote this up, hopefully it can help with getting the maintenance and repairs made on the fountain. David was on the PS Arts Commission for 10 years, 8 of which he was the Chairman. During his time as chair he worked with David Morris on getting this project started and completed. If there are questions or information that you might need in the future David and I would be glad to help.

The Rainmaker fountain in Francis Stevens Park needs maintenance and possibly repair of that we are sure you are keenly aware. The Rainmaker fountain should be fully functioning as we open the city back up.

Daily during the worst part of the pandemic, we would ride our bikes near the fountain fully masked. The wands spilling water into the basin, very few cars driving by, and some people admiring the work while they were out on their walks was a sight to see during that trying time.

The PS City Council at the time commissioned the PS Arts Commission to build a gateway piece for North Palm Canyon, north of Alejo. At the time of the commission, many of the storefronts were empty and in decline. Since its inception and dedication, the area around it has grown and prospered.

The fountain area has become a point for social gatherings and marches. The fountain is a place where people gather to watch the play of the water. It still is a gateway piece to the north end of Palm Canyon.

The Palm Springs Arts Commission was asked to request entrants nationwide for a gateway project for Francis Stevens park by the PS City Council. I was Commissioner of the Arts Commission at that time. We had many entrants and finally selected Rainmaker by David Morris. We had a review committee that included Stu Williams, Richard Millanovich, and others. This was an ambitious project, outlaying some \$300,000 for a poured-in-place concrete structure with articulating wands, a real deal for the quality of the product produced. Mr. Morris used the best high-end factories, machine shops, and water feature contractors in America to build the wands, with a simple unique concept of the wands moving seamlessly without ball bearings. Mr. Morris was on hand during the pouring of the concrete for the basin and the Arroyo aspect of the fountain. The Arts Commission worked with the planning commission, the city engineers, and the city council to make sure this fountain met the desires of a gateway entrance fountain. Mr. Morris worked diligently to make sure the fountain met the city criteria. Mr. Morris's design in simplicity and complexities can be maintained and was maintained by a very experienced contractor, Rich Parzinsky, who recently passed away.

All projects of this magnitude require annual maintenance and some repairs, and the longer the fountain is not operating, maintenance becomes more costly to bring it back online.

Seeing the fountain wands moving while driving by, walking near, or standing below can be inspiring. It accomplishes the goal of the commission to be the gateway to North Palm Springs.

We would hope that the City and the City Council would move forward with making sure Rainmaker is brought back to its inspiring functioning.

Best Regards
David Aiken
DuRand Jones
1455 N Avenida Caballeros
Palm Springs, CA 92262
dwaiken@icloud.com
durandjones@mac.com

From: [M.L](#)
To: [Evelyn Beltran](#)
Subject: Fw: Rainmaker Operation
Date: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 9:19:11 PM

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To the attention of Ms Beltrain and the Measure J committee

I am forwarding several emails that the Public Arts Commission has received related to the "Rainmaker" fountain in downtown Palm Springs. This particular email is from the artist that created the fountain. Please share these with the Measure J Commission.

Thank you
Matthew Lesniak
Commissioner
Palm Springs Public Arts Commission

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: David Morris <dcurtmorris@gmail.com>
To: "Lisa.Middleton@Palmspringsca.gov" <Lisa.Middleton@Palmspringsca.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 26, 2022, 03:11:13 PM PST
Subject: Rainmaker Operation

Mayor Lisa Middleton
Palm Springs, CA
Re: Rainmaker Maintenance
From: David Morris, Designer of the Rainmaker Fountain and Park

Dear Mayor Middleton-

Over the years many friends and acquaintances have purposefully made trips to Palm Springs to see the Rainmaker. But I have recently received notes (both from out of town visitors and residents) that it is not running and appears to need attention.

Many years ago it was discovered that funds allocated for general maintenance of the Rainmaker were siphoned off for other projects, and as a result there was major damage to the equipment. Extensive and costly repairs were made and then assurances were given that maintenance would proceed on a regular basis.

I don't know what has happened, but I understand (from talking with the person now in charge of operations) that although it cannot run at the moment, the problems are not at all as severe this time; some but not all components need attention, and surfaces need refinishing. And this should not be a costly undertaking.

I imagine you have a great deal on your plate these days, but please reassure me that the Rainmaker will get the attention that it needs.

Yours sincerely,

David Morris
New York, NY
Portland, OR
503 539 1745

From: [M.L](#)
To: [Evelyn Beltran](#)
Subject: Re: The Fountain
Date: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 9:41:26 PM

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Hello Ms Beltran

Again, another email/letter sent to the Public Arts Commission re Rainmaker Fountain. Please forward this along with the others to the Measure J Commission.

Again, Thank you
Matthew Lesniak
Commissioner
Palm Springs Public Arts Commission

To whom it may concern,

It has been quite sometime since our beautiful iconic fountain at Alejo and Palm Canyon has been in service. As a resident it is an eyesore to see it in that disheveled state and as an artist, a disappointment to have it not function as the installation it was placed there to be. I truly hope that this will be worked out sooner than later in the future as our quite immaculate Desert city deserves better.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,
Desi

From: [M.L](#)
To: [Evelyn Beltran](#)
Subject: Fw: THIRD REQUEST
Date: Tuesday, February 1, 2022 9:28:03 PM

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To the attention of Ms Beltran and the Measure J committee

I am forwarding several emails that the Public Arts Commission has received related to the "Rainmaker" fountain in downtown Palm Springs. This particular email consists of several we received from a resident of Palm Springs, Mr Holtzer. Please share these with the Measure J Commission.

Thank you
Matthew Lesniak
Commissioner
Palm Springs Public Arts Commission

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Jay Virata <jay.virata@palmspringsca.gov>
To: Matthew Lesniak <MLL310@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, January 19, 2022, 07:29:46 PM PST
Subject: FW: THIRD REQUEST

Hello Matthew,

In regards to the rainmaker fountain. It does not appear that there is a phone number for Mr. Gary Holtzer. But here is his email address gary.holtzer@gmail.com.

Jay

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary Holtzer <gary.holtzer@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 3:55 PM
To: Jay Virata <Jay.Virata@palmspringsca.gov>
Subject: Re: THIRD REQUEST

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Thank you. I would be pleased to meet with the commissioner(s) if that is helpful.

I am hopeful that you sent the string of emails and responses so that they have the full context of my comments, not

just the last one. Out of context it might come across as me being against public art, which would not be further from the truth. What I am concerned about is that we have the means and budget to care for the art that we have before we take on the burden of additional art.

On Jan 13, 2022, at 3:44 PM, Jay Virata <Jay.Virata@palmspringsca.gov> wrote:

I have forwarded your comment to the commissioners. They may choose to include it on a future agenda.

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary Holtzer <gary.holtzer@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, January 13, 2022 3:39 PM
To: Jay Virata <Jay.Virata@palmspringsca.gov>
Subject: Re: THIRD REQUEST

NOTICE: This message originated outside of The City of Palm Springs -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.

I reviewed the agenda for next week's Art Commission meeting, and see there is additional public art being considered. I do not understand why we, as a City, are purchasing and commissioning additional public art while the public art that we have, specifically the Rainmaker Fountain, languishes in the center of our City.

Might you get this issue on the record at the meeting?

On Jan 11, 2022, at 5:36 PM, Jay Virata <Jay.Virata@palmspringsca.gov> wrote:

Hello Mr. Holter,

You are correct in that repair of the rainmaker fountain is costly. It is estimated to cost \$220,000. Accordingly, the Public Arts Commission has applied for funding as part of the Measure J Community initiated projects to repair the rainmaker fountain. Please refer to item 25 in the link below.

<https://www.palmspringsca.gov/home/showdocument?id=80922&t=637745794665976868>

Thank you.

Jay Virata
Director, Community &
Economic Development
City of Palm Springs
3200 E. Tahquitz Canyon Way
Palm Springs, CA 92262
(760) 323-8228
Jay.Virata@PalmSpringsCA.gov

-----Original Message-----

From: Gary Holtzer <gary.holtzer@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, January 11, 2022 5:08 PM
To: Jay Virata <Jay.Virata@palmspringsca.gov>
Subject: THIRD REQUEST

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Please see request below. Thank you.

On Dec 28, 2021, at 8:33 PM, Gary Holtzer <gary.holtzer@gmail.com> wrote:

Jay,

I would be grateful for a response, or to be redirected to an individual who may be able to respond.

Thank you.

GH

On Dec 20, 2021, at 12:15 PM, Gary Holtzer <gary.holtzer@gmail.com> wrote:

Dear Jay,

I was pleased to read that new public art will be unveiled at the swim center. The continual addition of public art to the community is applauded and I am pleased that it is still a priority.

That said, I would like to understand why the Rainmaker Fountain in Frances Stevens Park is in such disrepair. For many years it has been neglected, even as it stood in such a prominent location. There must be a logical explanation. In my view, it should be restored and maintained, or if restoration and/or operating costs make that not feasible, removed and replaced with public art that is a source of pride for the community.

I would appreciate your comment on this.

Thank you.

Gary Holtzer
Palm Springs, CA

From: [Evelyn Beltran](#)
To: [M L](#)
Cc: [Tracy Merrigan](#); [Staci Schafer](#); [Jay Virata](#); [David Morris](#)
Subject: RE: Please forward to Measure J Commission. RAINMAKER FOUNTAIN/ Diane Morgan letter
Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 4:45:00 PM
Attachments: [D. Morgan RE-Rainmaker Fountain 2.15.2022-DISTRIBUTED.pdf](#)

Good afternoon Mr. Lesniak,

I have forwarded your email and correspondence from Diane Morgan to the Measure J Oversight Commission.

Thank you and have a great day.

Evelyn Beltran

Executive Administrative Assistant



Department of Finance & Treasury
Evelyn.Beltran@PalmSpringsCA.gov
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-----Original Message-----

From: M L <mll310@yahoo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 1:08 PM
To: Evelyn Beltran <Evelyn.Beltran@palmspringsca.gov>
Cc: Tracy Merrigan <tracymerr@me.com>; Staci Schafer <Staci.Schafer@palmspringsca.gov>; Jay Virata <Jay.Virata@palmspringsca.gov>; David Morris <dcmorris@rcn.com>
Subject: Please forward to Measure J Commission. RAINMAKER FOUNTAIN/ Diane Morgan letter

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Hello Ms Beltran
CC: T.Merrigan, S.Shafer

The Public Arts Commission has received another letter from a resident "Diane Morgan" regarding Rainmaker Fountain.
Please forward this to the Measure J Commission.

I would also like to. make the Commission aware that the artist is available to address any questions by the Measure J Commission, if needed. I as the grant writer for the Public Arts Commission, can also be available.

Thank you
Matthew Lesniak
Commissioner
Palm Springs Public Arts Commission

February 11, 2022

Request to commence repairs on Rainmaker Fountain

To whom it may concern:

As Public Art Administrator for the City of Palm Springs from 1992-2003, the Rainmaker Fountain and water feature on North Palm Canyon and Alejo was one of my major projects. The fountain was instrumental in reviving and energizing North Palm Canyon and the businesses in that area. I see it often when visiting the Desert Art Center and have been deeply disappointed at the lack of maintenance on this work. It sorely needs attention.

I understand that there is funding through Measure J to make repairs and get it functioning again. Nothing is currently being done. I'm wondering what the hold up is that is keeping the repair work from commencing.

The members on the Public Art Commission who originally approved this project and myriad friends thought this was one of our most successful projects. Friends have been complaining to me that they cannot enjoy seeing the sculpture functioning, and hence do not send visitors to see it. This is one of the great attractions that makes our community vibrant and unique.

Please look into what is holding up the repairs and let this wonderful piece of Palm Springs Public Art become the glorious, active sculpture that it was created to be.

I would greatly appreciate whatever can be done to make this happen. It's too wonderful to let it sit in disrepair, inactive.

I'm still very active in Palm Springs Public Art. I recently painted two benches on South Palm Canyon at La Plaza and painted the "Happiness" dome in the Demuth Park Community Garden. Palm Springs has such a wonderful Public Art Program. I want to see it continue to shine.

Thank you for your consideration.

Diane Morgan

Diane Morgan

Past Public Art Administrator

Dianem1111@aol.com

www.dianemorganpaints.com

760-902-8855

From: [M.L](#)
To: [Evelyn Beltran](#)
Cc: [Tracy Merrigan](#); [Staci Schafer](#); [Jay Virata](#); [David Morris](#)
Subject: Please forward to Measure J Commission. RAINMAKER FOUNTAIN/ Diane Morgan letter
Date: Tuesday, February 15, 2022 1:08:37 PM
Attachments: [Rainmaker Diane Morgan.pages](#)

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Hello Ms Beltran
CC: T.Merrigan, S.Shafer

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Please forward this to the Measure J Commission.

I would also like to. make the Commission aware that the artist is available to address any questions by the Measure J Commission, if needed. I as the grant writer for the Public Arts Commission, can also be available.

Thank you
Matthew Lesniak
Commissioner
Palm Springs Public Arts Commission