



**TOWN OF PALM BEACH**  
Planning, Zoning & Building Department  
360 South County Road  
Palm Beach, FL 33480  
[www.townofpalmbeach.com](http://www.townofpalmbeach.com)

PLANNING, ZONING, & BUILDING DEPARTMENT  
PZ&B Staff Memorandum: Landmarks Preservation Commission

FROM: Wayne Bergman, MCP, LEED-AP *WB*  
Director PZ&B

SUBJECT: COA-23-050 101 FOUR ARTS PLAZA, The Philip Hulitar Sculpture Garden

MEETING: JANUARY 17, 2024

**COA-23-050 101 FOUR ARTS PLZ—THE SOCIETY OF THE FOUR ARTS.** The applicant, Society of the Four Arts Inc, has filed an application requesting a Certificate of Appropriateness for the review and approval of the replacement of the overhead beams and rafters in two of the four pergolas in The Philip Hulitar Sculpture Garden at The Society of the Four Arts with an Azek product in lieu of wood.

Applicant: Society of the Four Arts, Inc.  
Professional: Shutts & Bowen LLP

**HISTORY:**

The Society of the Four Arts campus consists of multiple buildings and parcels and was designated a Landmark in 1995. Located at the Northwest corner of Cocoanut Row and Royal Palm Way is the Philip Hulitar Sculpture Garden.

This case was heard at the December 20, 2023, Landmarks Preservation Commission meeting and deferred to January for further study of the material and the other two pergolas on site.

**THE PROJECT:**

The applicant has submitted plans, entitled "**The Society of the Four Arts**", as prepared by **insite studio**, date stamped by the Town, January 04, 2024. However, in reviewing the newer submittal staff finds no different request than the one originally presented to LPC.

The applicants are proposing the following scope of work:

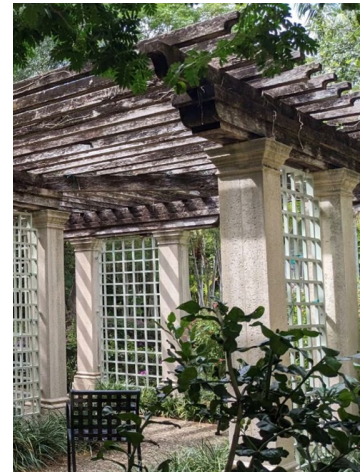
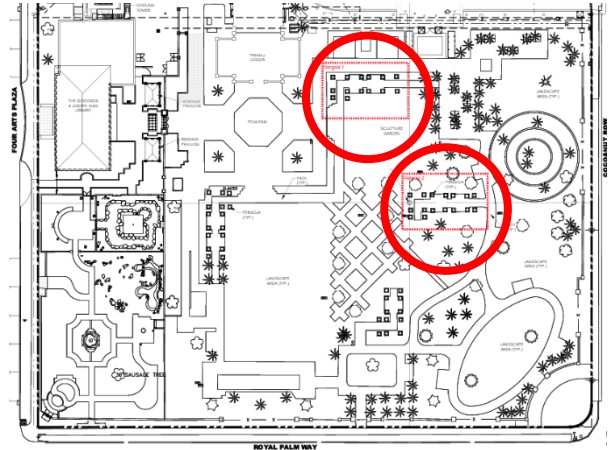
- Replace existing wood rafters and beams on two (2) pergola structures in the garden with a painted Azek product.

Site Data			
<b>Zoning District</b>	R-B	<b>Lot Size (SF)</b>	86,998 SF
<b>Future Land Use</b>	PRIVATE GROUP USE	<b>Designated Landmark</b>	9/20/1995
<b>Year of Construction:</b>	Varies c.1924, 1929, c.1930	<b>Architect:</b>	Addison Mizner/John Volk
Surrounding Properties / Zoning			
<b>North</b>	240 Cocoanut Row/Society of the Four Arts / R-B		

<b>South</b>	400 Royal Palm Way/ Office Building / C-OPI
<b>East</b>	239 Cocoanut Row/School / R-B
<b>West</b>	101 Four Arts Plaza/Society of the Four Arts / R-B

### **STAFF ANALYSIS**

The application is presented to the Commission to consider whether all the criteria in section 54-123 have been met. The Philip Hulitar Sculpture Garden and Four Arts Botanical Gardens are a lush 2.2 acre garden green space on the eastern side of the Society of the Four Arts “campus”. There are 20 sculptures by world class artists found throughout the space, as well as pathways, pavilions, fountains, and buildings. There are four pergolas located within the Hulitar Garden, the beams and rafters of which are all constructed of wood. Four pergolas exist in the Hulitar Garden, constructed of IPE approximately a dozen years ago. The applicant wishes to replace elements of the pergolas with a synthetic product. According to the application all of the wood elements on all four pergolas are beginning to show signs of wood rot, but this application is for the replacement of the beams and rafters of the two eastern pergolas that show signs of significant rotting, likely due to their placement in the garden and exposure to the elements. The requested material change is from the existing Ipe wood to a composite product made from pvc material with an aluminum core. There are no changes to the footprint of the pergolas. As the requested changes are cosmetic in nature, there are no zoning concerns presented with the application. The location of the pergolas are internal to the site and not directly visible from the abutting rights-of-way.



While the scope of work includes a material changes to non-historic elements of the garden; it is still advisable to utilize authentic materials that can patina with age over synthetic materials that may have too glossy or smooth of a finish than the wood they are attempting to simulate.

### **CONCLUSION:**

The application is presented to the Commission to consider whether all of the criteria in section 54-

123 have been met. Approval of the project will require one (1) motion:

- (1) for the overall design of the project in accordance with the Sec. 54-123, subject to any imposed conditions, and

WRB: JGM: FHM